



Hausa Grammatical Sketch

Bernard Caron

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HausaGrammatical Sketch¹

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(03/10/2013)

Hyperlinks: The reference of each example in the article can be clicked to view all its tiers in the CorpAfroAs database, and play the corresponding audio file.

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¹ This grammatical sketch of Hausa has been written as an annex to the annotated Hausa Corpus transcribed for the CorpAfroAs project (ANR-06CORP). It has been meticulously checked and corrected by Raymond Boyd. Many of his suggestions have been taken into account. The final decisions and remaining mistakes are mine.

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1 Introduction

Hausa has enjoyed a long tradition of linguistic studies with, to name but the most important early scientific works, two major dictionaries (Bargery 1934, Abraham 1962), a grammar (Abraham 1959), and a collection of articles by F. Parsons spanning the years from 1955 to 1975 which laid the groundwork for modern Hausaist research. Recent years have seen the fulfillment of these decades of scientific research with the successive publication of two monumental grammars (Newman 2000 (760 p.) and Jaggar 2001 (754 p.)) and two major dictionaries (R. M. Newman 1990 and Newman 2007). This grammatical sketch owes much to Paul Newman's *The Hausa language: an encyclopedic reference grammar* (Newman 2000), which provides exactly what its title announces: in 760 densely set pages, it covers everything one might ever want to know about Hausa, in a clear, precise, exhaustive set of 80 articles. Large passages below merely summarize relevant parts of this grammar, examples included. Whenever possible, we have added data and examples from our own teaching experience and research ².

Hausa belongs to the Chadic branch of Afroasiatic languages. Whereas none of the other 170 Chadic languages has more than 200 thousand speakers, Hausa is estimated to be spoken by around 50 million people, three quarters of whom live in Nigeria. Hausaland proper straddles the Niger/Nigeria border, but Hausa communities have settled in Sudan, Cameroon, Togo and Ghana. Moreover, Hausa traders can be found in all big West African cities, as far as North Africa (Tripoli, etc.). Presently, the Hausa community, which has emerged over the centuries through the absorption of heterogeneous populations, is best defined by its common language. This on-going process of integrating vast non-Hausa speaking populations has left its imprint on the language. For example, the Hausa spoken in Bauchi and Zaria does not mark gender. A relatively weak dialect differentiation can be observed spreading from West to East, in stripes with a North-South orientation, dividing into two main groups: Western Hausa, represented by Sokoto, and Eastern Hausa, represented by Kano. Kano Hausa has been chosen as the reference for the elaboration of a standard idiom. The place with the greatest dialect dispersion and the most "archaic" features is Sokoto, which is probably the starting point for the dialect diffusion of the language.

The origin of the Hausa people has been situated in the Air mountain in Niger Republic. The movement from North to South took place under the pressure of Tuareg populations driven on by desertification of the Sahara. The Hausa states as they exist today were founded in the 14th Century A.D. Following the *jihad* launched by Shehu Usman Dan Fodio from 1804 to 1812, the Sokoto caliphate replaced the old Hausa kingdoms. That is when the Hausa Islamic poetry was born, which constitutes the first trace of Hausa written in *ajami*³. British colonization, with the generalization and standardization of Hausa spelling in roman script, witnessed the birth of a Hausa press and literature. The current offer consists of five periodicals, as well as novels, poetry, plays, textbooks, propaganda leaflets, political and commercial posters, etc.

The Hausa speakers recorded for the CorpAfroAs corpus were all born and brought up around the city of Zaria, and all speak the same variety of Hausa called **Zazzaganci**, or Zaria Hausa. The main difference between this variety and the Standard Hausa of Kano, is its lack of grammatical gender. When relevant, notes concerning dialect particularities of Zaria Hausa will be introduced following the indicator <ZR>

² Examples taken from (Newman 2000) are labelled "PN"; our own examples are labelled "BC".

³ *Ajami* is the Hausa name given to the Arab alphabet adapted for the notation of African languages.

1.1 Abbreviations used in the grammar and in the corpus

Grammar: general abbreviations

adj.	Adjective	pds	Pre-dative Suffix
adv.	Adverb	pl.	Plural
AP	Adjectival Phrase	POSL	Possessive link
F	Falling tone	PP	Prepositional Phrase
f.	Feminine	prep.	Preposition
gr	Grade	SH	Standard Hausa
H	High tone	sufx	Suffix
IP	Infinitive Phrase	TP	Tone Pattern
L	Low tone	v.	Verb
M	Mid tone	VP	Verb Phrase
m.	Masculine	WH	Western Hausa
NP	Noun Phrase	ZR	Zaria Hausa
NV	Verbal Noun		

Corpus: glossing labels (\rx tier)

Label (\rx)	Meaning	Associated \ge labels and/or examples
ADJ	Adjective	red (<i>d̥a:</i>), evil (<i>mu:gù:</i>)
ADV	Adverb	formerly (<i>dā:</i>), quickly (<i>dàwuɾi</i>)
ADV.DEICT	Deictic Adverb	now (<i>jānzū</i>), next_year (<i>bādī</i>)
ADV.REL	Relative Adverb	how (<i>jaddā</i>), REL.LOC (<i>indā</i>)
ato	Apotony	IMP
CIRC	Circumfix	AGT (<i>ma-</i>); INS (<i>-i:</i>)
COMP	Complementizer	that_is (<i>tfē:wa:</i>)
CONJ	Conjunction	if (<i>in</i>); until (<i>har</i>)
der	Derivation	DIR (<i>-o:</i>); NMLZ (<i>-wa:</i>)
DET	Determinant	DEF (<i>-nī</i>)
DET.INDF	Indefinite Determinant	SOME.PL (<i>wasu</i>)
DP	Discourse particle	well (<i>tò:</i>)
EXCL	Exclamation	eh (<i>ě:</i>); indeed (<i>āfe:</i>)
FILL	Pause filler	er... (<i>e:::</i>)
HESIT	Hesitation	gwa:#
hom	Homonymy	COP2 (<i>dā</i>); REL (<i>dā</i>); COMP (<i>dā</i>)
IDEOPH	Ideophone	strong (<i>kankan</i>); tight (<i>tsantsan</i>)
INTJ	Interjection	amen (<i>ā:min</i>); no (<i>a:ʔā:</i>)
N	Noun	thing (<i>ābù</i>); work (<i>aiki:</i>)
N.P	Proper Noun	Amina; Bashir
N.V	Verbal Noun	loan; begging
NUM	Numeral	Four (<i>huɗu</i>)
ONOM	Onomatopoeia	mê:: galalan
PNG	Person-Number-Gender complex	2PL.CONT (<i>kunā:</i>); FUT.3SG.M (<i>zāi</i>)
POSL	Possessive Link	PTCL.SYNT (<i>-n ; na</i>)
PRO	Pronoun	So_and_So (<i>wa:nè</i>)
PRO.BEN	Benefactive Pronoun	2.PL (<i>mukù</i>)
PRO.DEICT	Deictic Pronoun	ANAPH (<i>wānnan</i>); DIST (<i>wantfàn</i>)
PRO.INDF	Indefinite Pronoun	some.F (<i>wata</i>)
PRO.IDP	Independent Pronoun	2SG.F (<i>ke:</i>); 3SG.M (<i>fi:</i>)
PRO.POS	Possessive Pronoun	3SG.F (<i>ta:kù</i>)
PRO.SBJ	Subject Pronoun	2SG.F (<i>kí</i>)

PRO.UNIV	Universal Quantifier Pronoun	anything (ko:me:)
PTCL	Particle	ANAPH (dīn); plus (fā:)
PTCL.ASS	Assertive Particle	FCT (-o:) ; VRT (-a:)
PTCL.NEG	Negative Particle	NEG2a (bà:); NEG3 (bâ:)
PTCL.SYNT	Syntactic Particle	ATTR (mài); POSL (na)
PTCL.TOP	Topicalizing Particle	indeed (fa); too (kuma)
rdp	reduplication	child\PL (yā:yā:); gather (tattà:ra:)
REL	Relative	how (jandà); who (wandà);
STAT	Stative	together (tà:re); staying (zàune)
V	Verb	go.DIR (taho:); say (tfê:)
V.AUX	Auxiliary Verb	keep_on (ringà:)

Corpus: glossing labels (\ge tier)

Label (\ge)	Meaning	Associated \rx labels
ACC1	Accusative 1	ACC1 (-i)
ACC2	Accusative 2	ACC2 (-e:)
AGT	Agent (circumfix)	CIRC (ma- ... -i:\HLH)
ALL	Allative	PTCL.SYNT (zâ:)
ANAPH	Anaphoric	PRO .DEICT (wānnan); PTCL (dīn)
ATTR	Attributive	PTCL.SYNT (mài)
BEN	Benefactive	PTCL.SYNT (mà)
BKL	Backchannelling	BKL (mì:hm:)
CONT	Continuous	TAM
COP	Copula	PTCL.SYNT (dà)
CTF	Counterfactual	CONJ (dâ:)
DEF	Definite	DET (-nì)
DIM	Diminutive	ADV (dān)
DIR	Directional	der (-o:); PTCL.SYNT (zâ:)
DIST	Distal	ADV.DEICT (tfān)
DUR	Durative	TAM (ta)
EVD	Evidential	PTCL (wai)
F	Feminine	PNG (ita); der (-annija:)
FCT	Factual	PTCL.ASS (-o:)
FILL	Pause Filler	FILL (è:::)
FOC	Focus	TAM (jakè:)
FUT	Future	TAM (zâi)
HAB	Habitual	TAM (kàn)
HESIT	Hesitation	FILL (d:::)
IDP	Independent	PNG (su:)
IMP	Imperative	TAM
INS	Instrumental	CIRC (-a: ... -i:; [H])
M	Masculine	PNG (fi:)
NEG	Negative	PTCL.NEG (bâ:)
NFOC	Non-Focus	TAM (nà:)
NMLZ	Nominalizer	der (-wa:)
PFV	Perfect	TAM (ja:)
PL	Plural	PL (-o:Çi:)
PROX	Proximal	ADV.DEICT (nān); PRO.DEICT (wannān)
REL.LOC	Locative Relative Pronoun	ADV.REL (indā)
SBJV	Subjunctive	TAM (jā, mù)
SG	Singular	PNG (fi:, ja:)
TAM	Tense/Aspect/Mood complex	
VRT	Virtual	PTCL.ASS (-a:)
1, 2, 3, 4	Number	PRO, PNG

- the final **-a** of the 1SG possessive pronoun **na/ta: bà:ba:na:** ‘my father’, **ɾi:ga:ta:** ‘my (man’s) gown’;
- the final **-o:** of class 6 verbs (ventive extension);
- the final vowel of the following verbs: **ɖɛ:** ‘go’; **ɖɛa:** ‘draw’; **fa:** ‘drink’; **so:** ‘want, love’; **zo:** ‘come’; **jo:/wo:** ‘go and do sth.’; **bija:** ‘pay’; **ɖɛɪra:** ‘wait’; **kiɾa:** ‘call’;
- the diphthongs in the words **kai** ‘carry’; **hau** ‘ride’; **kau** ‘take away’.

5 Consonants

f	f ^j	t	s	ʃ	ɬ	k ^j	k ^w	h	ʔ
b		d	z		ɖ	g ^j	g ^w		
ɓ		ɗ	ts			k ^j	k ^w		
						ɟ			
m		n				j	w		
			l						
			ɾ						
			r						

Comments: the consonant written /f/ in standard orthography is a bilabial whose pronunciation varies according to dialects and sociolects: [h^w] in the West; [ɸ] (voiceless bilabial fricative) or [p] (voiceless bilabial plosive) in the East, depending on the social group of the speaker, the variant [ɸ] having a higher social connotation. It is pronounced [ɸ] and transcribed /f/ in the corpus.

The consonant written /ɖ/ in standard orthography is realized [ʒ] in the West, e.g. “**ɖɛaki**” ‘donkey’ is pronounced [ɖɛa:ki:] in Kano and [ʒa:ki:] in Sokoto. It is transcribed and pronounced [ɖ] in the corpus. The standard orthography notes only one /r/. In the corpus, /r/ notes an alveolar trill, and /ɾ/ an retroflex alveolar tap.

5.1 Glottalization

In the corpus, the glottal stop [ʔ] is not transcribed word-initially, transcribed /ʔ/ word-internally, and /ʔ/ for non-lexical phenomena (hesitation, stuttering, aborted speech units, etc.).

Two types of glottalized consonants are generally distinguished in Hausa:

- the voiceless post-glottalized ejectives **k̥**, **k̥^j**, **k̥^w** and **s̥** (written “ts” in standard orthography);
- the injectives **ɓ̥**, **ɗ̥**, **ɟ̥**, also called implosives, or voiced pre-glottalized.

5.2 Long or geminated consonants

Hausa has long (geminated) consonants whose articulation is maintained longer than that of normal consonants. Some words contrast by consonant length: **kulè:** / **kullè:** (‘cat/lock’); **manà/mannà:** (‘BEN.1PL/glue’).

5.3 Labialization and palatalization of consonants

/b/, /ɓ/, /k/, /k̥/ and /g/ are pronounced with rounded lips before /o/, /o:/, /u/ and /u:/. For example, in the words **bùhu:** ‘bag’; **bo:kò:** ‘schooling’; **gudù:** ‘run’, and **go:ɾò:** ‘cola nut’, the consonants /b/, /k/ and /g/ are pronounced with rounded lips, so that one can hear [b^wùhu:], [b^wo:kò:], and [g^wudù:].

/k/ and /g/ are palatalized before front vowels /i/, /i:/, /e/ and /e:/. For example, in the words **bà:ki:** ‘mouth’ and **gida:** ‘compound’, /k/ and /g/ are palatalized into [bà:k̟i:] and [g̟ida:].

/t/, /d/, /z/, /s/, and /w/ are realized /ɬ/, /ɖ/, /ʒ/, /ʃ/ and /j/ respectively in front of the front vowels /i/, /i:/, /e/ and /e:/, except in recent loanwords, e.g. **tí:tí:** ‘street’, a word borrowed from English via Yoruba.

5.4 Velarization of nasals

/n/ is pronounced [ŋ] before /k/, /k/, /g/ and /ʔ/.⁶ For example, *gwanki*: ‘antelope’, is pronounced [gwanʔki:] and *danko*: ‘rubber’, is pronounced [danʔko:].

Word-final /n/ and /m/ are pronounced [ŋ] too, as in *nān* [nāŋ] ‘here’ and *kullum* [kulluŋ] ‘always’.

6 Tone⁷

The tone-bearing unit in Hausa is the syllable. Hausa has three surface tones. Two are level: Low (L), marked with a grave accent (*à* and *â*); and High (H), left unmarked (*a* and *â*). The third, Falling (F) marked with a circumflex accent (*â* and *â*) is a modulation from the combination of H+L tone on a single syllable. F tones only appear on heavy (CVV and CVC) syllables. Hausa does not have a Rising tone. When a LH combination of tones falls on a single syllable through historical or synchronic morphological processes, it is simplified to H or L, depending on the context.

Tone has lexical as well as grammatical functions. Some words contrast only through their tone pattern: *kai*, 2.SG.M.IDP pronoun vs. *kâi* ‘head’; *su*: 3.PL.IDP pronoun vs. *sû*: ‘fishing’; *ku:kà*: ‘baobab’ vs. *ku:ka*: ‘crying’; *wujà*: ‘neck’ vs. *wùja*: ‘difficulty’. Some plurals, imperatives and derivatives are formed by changing the tone pattern only: *mà:ta*: (LH) ‘wife sg.’ vs. *ma:ta*: (HH) ‘wife pl.’; *dafà*: (HL) ‘cook’ vs. *dàfa*: (LH) ‘cook!’; *ma’aikata*: (H) ‘working place’ vs. *ma’àikàta*: (HLLH) ‘workers’.

Tone patterns or melodies are associated with words or morphemes. The tones of a melody are assigned to the syllables from right to left: *su:na:je:*)^{HLH} is realized as *su:nà:je:* ‘names’ with HLH. If there are more syllables than tones, the first tone is repeated up to the next-to-the-last syllable: *makarantu:*)^{LH} is realized as *màkàràntu:* ‘schools’. Some suffixes have an associated tone pattern that overrides that of the suffixed word, e.g. *ri:ga*: (LH) + *-una:*)^{HL} gives *ri:gunà:* ‘gowns’ (HHL). These suffixes, called tone-integrating suffixes by Newman, can be stacked, in which case the melody of the last applied suffix overrides all preceding melodies: *daka*)^{HL} ‘pound’ + *-akke:*)^{LHH} past participle + *-u:*)^{LH} plural: *dakà*: > *dàkakke:* > *dàkàkku:* ‘pounded (pl.)’.

Some grammatical words have “polar tones”; i.e. they have no tone of their own, but must bear one that is the opposite of the preceding one. This is the case of the identifying copula *ɸe:* (f.)/*ne:* (m., pl.) *mo:tà: ɸe:* ‘it’s a car’ vs. *ri:ga: ɸè:* ‘it’s a gown’.

When a final syllable drops, the tone it bears remains floating and is added to the preceding syllable. HL on a heavy syllable produces a F: *mùtumi*: (LHL) > *multuim* > *mùtùm* (LF) ‘man’. Since a Rising tone is not allowed in Hausa, LH is usually simplifies to H: *ta: sàji na:mà:* > *ta: sàj i na:mà:* > *ta: sai na:mà:* ‘she bought food’.

Canonical tone patterns can be identified in terms of the number and structure of syllables (cf. PN:605-7).

7 Intonation

Intonation patterns are associated with phrasal and sentential units corresponding to minor and/or major intonation units. They are best identified through variation in the pitch of tones. Following Newman (2000:612 ff.), we identify the following intonation patterns in Hausa:

- **The Declarative or neutral pattern** is characterized by downdrift, accounted for by the general rule that “each H tone after a L is a step lower than the preceding H” (PN:612).
- **Wh-questions** are characterized by a declarative intonation pattern and a L tone + vowel lengthening added to the end of the intonation unit. This L tone changes final H tones to F. It does not change final L⁸.

⁶ In standard Hausa orthography, [ʔ] is written // word-internally, and not written word-initially.

⁷ Cf. Newman 2000: 597-614.

- **Yes/No questions** are characterized by suspension of downdrift and key raising (↑) of the last H tone and all following L tones⁹.
- **Sympathetic address** is an intonation pattern associated with units beginning with **tô**: ‘okay, I see’ / **habà** ‘never, stop now!’, followed by the name of addressee. They are characterized by a floating L tone added to the end of the name of the addressee.
- **The vocative pattern** is used when calling someone. It is characterized by raised pitch, lesser downdrift and lengthening of the final short vowel of any name of an addressee ending in such a vowel.

8 Word structure

The structure of the Hausa word is: < radical + affix>. The affix is composed of at least a final vowel and a tone pattern (TP). The radical **karant-** ‘read’ is associated with the word ‘teacher’, which has three forms: **makaràntfì**., m. suffix **-i**.)^{HLH}, **makarànta**., f. suffix **-a**.)^{HLH}, **màkaràntai**, pl.; suffix **-ai**)^{LH}. The notion of ‘leaning on’ (**dangan-**) is associated with the verb **dangàna**., v., suffix **-a**.)^{HLH}, ‘lean, prop, put against’. Adding the suffix **-t**, we get the derived verb **dàngantà**., v., suffix **-t-a**.)^{LHL} ‘to be linked to, comparable to’ and the derived noun **dàngàntakà**., n.f., suffix **-takà**.)^{LHL} ‘relationship’. The affix can comprise an infix, frequent in the formation of nominal plurals, as e.g. in the noun **biɽni**: ‘city’, pl. **biɽà:ne**: (rad. **biɽn-**; infix **-a-**; suffix **-e**.)^{HLH}. Only two prefixes are in use: **ma-**, used to derive agent, place, and instrument nouns; and **ba-**, used to form ethnonyms.

9 Information structure

Two phenomena belonging to information structure are pervasive in Hausa: topicalization and focus. Both operate through left-dislocation of a sentence element, but with very different morphological, syntactic, and pragmatic properties. The Topic belongs to the pragmatic preamble of the utterance. Focus is part of the syntactic/predicative structure of the utterance. The Topic only appears utterance-initially, whereas a focused element, though extraposed sentence-initially, can be preceded by various elements belonging to the pragmatic preamble. The following example, borrowed from Newman (2000:615), shows a topic followed by a focused element, and their respective structural positions.

Ex 1.

TOPIC			COMMENT		
			FOCUS	PRECONSTRUCT	
Hawan	doki:	dai,	Sulè:	ja	fi
riding	horse	indeed	Sule	3S.M.PFV.FOC	exceed
As for riding,			it’s Sule	who beats them all (PN, <i>op.cit.</i>)	everyone

9.1 Topicalization

Topicalization involves setting an NP at the beginning of an utterance, the rest of which is a *comment* upon it. There can be multiple topics. The TAM marking of the rest of the sentence is not affected by topicalization.

⁸ Newman (2000:493) identifies this phenomenon as a question-morpheme (“q-morpheme”), and refuses to consider it as part of the intonation pattern.

⁹ See also § 0.

“The topic belongs to the pragmatic preamble of the utterance, and is separated from the rest by either (a) the intonation; (b) the insertion of a modal particle like *dai* ‘indeed’, *fa* ‘well’, *kàm* ‘really’, *kùwa* (= *kò(:)*) ‘moreover’, etc. (or a succession of such particles).’ (PN:616¹⁰)

Ex 2.	à:	/	da:wà:	/	mukàn	ijà:	
	FILL	/	guinea-corn	/	1PL.HAB	can	
	sa:mù		-n		bùhu:	go:mà	hakà
	getting		-POSL		sack	ten	like_this
	masàra:		kuma	/	mukàn	ijà:	sa:mù
	maize		too	/	1PL.HAB	can	getting
							-n
							-POSL
	kàman	bùhu:	/	à::	/	go:mà	fâ:
	like	sack	/	FILL	/	ten	plus
							bijar
							five
							//
	[Ah] _{FILLER} , [guinea-corn] _{TOPIC} , [we get like ten sacks.] _{COMMENT}						
	[As for maize] _{TOPIC} , [we can get like ... er... fifteen sacks.] _{COMMENT} (HAU BC CONV 01 SP2 442-50) ¹¹ :						

9.2 Focus and subordination

When an element of a sentence is focused (contrastive emphasis with identification), it is moved to the beginning of the sentence, and the subject pronoun associated with the verb is selected from a subset of paradigms characterized as focus-compatible¹². Syntactically, the clauses identified by this subset of pronouns are characterized as being subordinated to the focused element. Pragmatically, their referential value is a backgrounded preconstruct. Those that are compatible with focus [+FOC] are labelled FOC in the glosses; those that are incompatible [-FOC] are labelled NFOC. Wh-Questions are another instance of focus constructions, with the question word appearing at the start of the sentence. Two types of sentences are associated with [+FOC] subject pronouns: (1) sentences with focus; (2) Wh-Questions.¹³

Focus

The focused element can be an NP, adverb or PP. It is contrasted with a set of elements which could potentially have the same function. The focused element is optionally followed by the *ne:/tfe:/ne:* copula. The TAM that follows must be chosen from among the +FOC paradigms.

PERFECTIVE	CONTINUOUS
ja:ròn [ja:]_{PFV.NFOC} t̥i na:mà: d̥ijà the boy ate meat yesterday ()	ja:ròn ([ja)nà:]_{CONT.NFOC} t̥in na:mà: à kà:suwa: the boy is eating meat at the market.
ja:ròn (ne:) [ja:]_{PFV.FOC} t̥i na:mà: d̥ijà THE BOY ate meat yesterday	ja:ròn (ne:) ([ja)kè:]_{CONT.FOC} t̥in na:mà: à kà:suwa: THE BOY is eating meat at the market.
na:mà: (ne:) ja:ròn [ja:]_{PFV.FOC} t̥i d̥ijà the boy ate MEAT yesterday	na:mà: (ne:) ja:ròn ([ja)kè:]_{CONT.FOC} t̥i: à kà:suwa: the boy is eating MEAT at the market.
d̥ijà (ne:) ja:ròn [ja:]_{PFV.FOC} t̥i na:mà: the boy ate meat YESTERDAY	à kà:suwa: (ne:) ja:ròn ([ja)kè:]_{CONT.FOC} t̥in na:mà: the boy is eating meat AT THE MARKET.
t̥in na:mà: (ne:) ja:ròn [ja:]_{PFV.FOC} ji d̥ijà the boy DID eat meat yesterday	t̥in na:mà: (ne:) ja:ròn ([ja)kè:]_{CONT.FOC} j̥i: à kà:suwa: the boy IS eating meat at the market.
	t̥in na:mà: (ne:) ja:ròn ([ja)kè:]_{CONT.FOC} (j̥i:) à kà:suwa: the boy IS eating meat at the market.

¹⁰ As for all examples taken from (Newman 2000), the transcription has been adapted following CorpAfroAs conventions.

¹¹ Edited example.

¹² Cf. 10.2 for TAM and Subject Pronouns (PNG).

¹³ At a lower level, [+FOC] TAM's are also typically associated with relative clauses.

Ex 3. *ta nan nè: akà sa:mo: basa:wa //*
 via ANAPH COP1 4.PFV.FOC get.DIR Basawa //
 [Is it there]_{FOCUS} [one finds the Basawas]_{PRECONSTRUCT}? ([HAU_BC_CONV_01_SP1_174](#))¹⁴

WH-Questions

Wh-Questions are requests for identification of the questioned term. The whole utterance is subordinated to this term, and the +FOC subject pronouns indicate this. The main question words are: *wà:(ne: nè:)* (m.), *wà:(tfe: tfe:)* (f.), *suwà: ne: nè:* (pl.) ‘who’; *mè:(ne: nè:)* (m.), *mè:(tfe: tfe:)* (f.) ‘what’; *ina:* ‘where’; *jàufè: / jàufe:* ‘when’; *jà:jà:* ‘how’; *nawà* ‘how many’; *wànè* (m.) / *wàtfe* (f.) / *wàdànnè* (pl.) ‘which’.

Ex 4. *tò: jàjà: kukè: dà / dabbo:bi: kuma /*
 well how 2PL.CONT.FOC with / cattle.PL too /
makijà:ja: //
 cattle_driver.PL //
 Well how do you [do] with... animals and cattle drivers? ([HAU_BC_CONV_01_SP1_213-6](#))

10 Syntax of the simple sentence

Hausa makes a basic distinction between verbal and non-verbal sentences. The pivot of the verbal sentence is the verb through its Tense, Aspect and Mode (TAM) paradigms. In the case of non-verbal sentences, the pivot is a copula with no reference to TAM. A minimum non-verbal sentence is made up of a Noun (or Noun Phrase) and a copula:

Ex 5. *fì: nè:*
 3SG.M COP1
 That’s it. ([HAU_BC_CONV_01_SP2_464](#))

This particular syntactic frame (____COP1) is what defines a noun in Hausa. Verbs, prepositions, etc. cannot occur in this context. Conversely, verbs and only verbs are compatible with TAM marking.

10.1 Non-verbal sentences -- Copulas

In a non-verbal sentence, the pivotal predicative function is performed by copulas, whose syntactic and morphological properties set them apart from verbs. Non-verbal sentences are made up of one (or two) Noun/Prepositional Phrases plus a Copula that gives them a reference value. These copulas are:

- *ne:* (m.sg.) / *tfe:* (f.sg.) / *ne:* (pl.) (COP1.NFOC) ‘be’
- *dà* (COP2) ‘there is’
- *àkwai* (COP3) ‘there is’
- *gà:* (COP4) ‘here is’.
- Identification: *ne:/tfe:/ne:*

Positive assertion The identification corresponding to ‘it/they is/are/was/were, etc.’ is done with the *ne:/tfe:/ne:* (COP1.NFOC) through the pattern: <X COP1> where X stands for an NP. The copula agrees in gender and number with the NP it identifies. *tfe:* is the feminine marked form; *ne:* is the masculine and plural unmarked form. The tone of the copula is polar with that of the last tone of the NP, e.g. *Mu:sa: (m.) nè:* ‘It’s Musa.’; *Kanò: (f.) tfe:* ‘It’s Kano.’; *garu:ruwà: (pl.) ne:* ‘They’re towns.’ When the NP is a pronoun, it belongs to the paradigm of independent pronouns (cf. Ex 5. above)

Negative assertion: The structure is <*bà:* X *ba nè:/tfe:*>, <NEG4a X NEG4b COP1.NFOC>

¹⁴ This example shows that Focus can appear in declarative as well as interrogative sentences (Yes/No questions).

Ex 6. **wai** **ai** **bà:** **gida** **-n** **-fi** **ba** **nè:** **jànzù** /
 EVD indeed NEG4A house -POSL -3SG.M NEG4B COP1.NFOC now /
 He said it was no longer his house. ([HAU_BC_CONV_03_SPI_289](#))

Yes/no questions are formed through intonation only, without any syntactic or morphological change¹⁵.

Ex 7. **matfi:ɗi:** **nè:** ?
 snake COP1.NFOC
 Is it a snake? (BC)

Wh-Question: The question word varies with animacy, gender and number:

- -human: **mè:ne: nè:** (m.); **mè:ɸe: ɸè:** (f.);
- +human: **wà:ne: nè:** (m.); **wà:ɸe: ɸè:** (f.); **su wà:ne: nè:** (pl.).

Ne: is used if the gender of the item questioned is masculine or unknown, **ɸe:** if it is feminine.

Ex 8. **Mè:ne: nè: wannà?** What is this ?
 Wannàn littà:fi: ne: This is a book.
 Wannàn kuɗɗè:ra: ɸè: This is a chair.
 Wà:ne: nè:? Who is this? (woman)
 Wà:ɸe: ɸè:? Who is this? (man)
 Suwà:ne: nè:? Who are they?

Existence: **àkwai, dà**

àkwai (COP3). Structure: <**àkwai** X> ‘there is/was/will be X’. **àkwai** is invariable.

Ex 9. **àkwai ɗà:fi: / 254 gùda: ɗaja / [...]**
 COP3 river / unit one /
 There is a river, one, [which ...] ([HAU_BC_CONV_01_SP2_624-6](#))

Ex: **àkwai ruwa:**. ‘There is water.’; **àkwai àlbasà:**. ‘There are onions.’; **-àkwai kuɗi: ? -i:, àkwai.** ‘-Is there any money? -Yes, there is.’

When the NP is a pronoun, it belongs to the paradigm of dependent pronouns: **àkwai tà !** ‘Here she comes !’

dà (COP2)¹⁶. Same structure as **àkwai**: <**dà** X> ‘there is/was/will be X’, except that a complement is compulsory, whereas it can be implicit in the case of **àkwai**.

Ex 10. **kâi / zo:mo: / 219 dà àbù -nì dà ka ɸi //**
 eh / Rabbit / COP2 thing -DEF REL 2SG.M.PFV.FOC eat //
 Eh, Rabbit, it must be something you have eaten. ([HAU_BC_NARR_01_SPI_199-202](#))

When the NP complement is elliptical, it is replaced by an independent pronoun:

Ex 11. **-dà ɗàri:dà: ? -i: dà ita.**
 COP2 newspapers yes COP2 3SG.F.IDP
 - Are there any newspapers? - Yes, there are. (BC)

Negation: bà:/ba:bù (NEG3). Structure: <**bà:/ba:bù** X >; meaning: <there is/was/will be no X>. In final position, only **ba:bù** is used.: **Bà:/ba:bù mâi.** ‘There is no petrol’; **-Àkwai mâi? -A:’à:, ba:bù.** ‘-Is there any petrol? -No, there isn’t.’; **-Bà: mâi? - A:’à:, àkwai. / -I:, bà: mâi. / -I:, ba:bù.** ‘Isn’t there any petrol?’ - ‘Yes (*lit.* No), there is.’ / ‘No (*lit.* Yes), there is no petrol.’ / ‘No (*lit.* Yes), there isn’t.’

¹⁵ As the syntax of the formation of Y/N questions is minimal in Hausa, it will not be discussed any more in the rest of the presentation.

¹⁶ This copula is related to the preposition **dà** ‘with’.

When the NP following **bâ:/ba:bù** is pronominal, it belongs to the independent pronoun paradigm: **Ba:bù ji: = Bâ: ji:**. ‘There isn’t any. (lit. There is no him.)’

Presentation: gâ:

Structure: <**gâ:** X>; meaning: <Here is X>:

- Ex 12. **gâ:** **gànga:** / **gâ:** **àbinfi** / **gâ:** **kwà:ja:**
COP4 drum / COP4 food / COP4 drugs
There were drums, there was food, there were drugs. ([HAU_BC_CONV_04_SP1_1096-2100](#))

Pronominal NP’s belong to the paradigm of object pronouns. The presentation copula **gâ:** has no negative form.

Location: COP + PP

Existence or presentation can be specified in space through a Prepositional Phrase (PP), an adverb or a deictic pronoun (e.g. **nân** ‘here’; **tfân** ‘there’).

- Ex 13. **ʔi:ɕji:ji: nè:** **hakà** / **à wadʒen** / **gò:nàki-n na:mù** //
well.PL COP1.NFOC like_this / at around / field.PL-DEF 1PL.POS //
There were wells like this, near... our fields. ([HAU_BC_CONV_01_SP2_491-4](#))

- Ex 14. **gâ:** **wani** **ma:** **à nân** //
COP4 some.M even at PROX //
There’s even one here. ([HAU_BC_CONV_04_SP2_058](#))

Wh-Question: ina:. The Wh-Question word **ina:** can be followed by the copula **nè:/tfe:** (COP1).

- Ex 15. **ina:** **nè:** **hanjà:** **-n -mù** **na** **ʔà:fi:** //
where COP1.NFOC road -POSL -1PL POSL river //
Where is the way to the river? ([HAU_BC_NARR_01_SP1_021](#))

The Allative (zâ:)

Zâ: is a Syntactic Particle, glossed Allative (ALL) in the corpus, and used to indicate movement in a certain direction. Structure: < **zâ:** X Location> = < **zâ:** NP PP/Adv/Deict >

- Ex 16. **ina:** **zâ:** **ka?**
where all 2SG.M.OBJ
ja **tfê:** **zâ:** **ni** **mângaɕjà:** **nè:.**
3SG.M.PFV.FOC say all 1SG.OBJ Mangaja COP1.NFOC
[They asked,]“Where are you going?” He said, “I’m going to Mangaja.” (BC)

Followed by pronominal forms from the paradigm of object pronouns (PRO.OBJ), it seems to govern semantic subject pronouns (see Table 1 below), but has not reached the stage of a full-fledged TAM as it is not related to time or modality but only denotes a spatial specification.

TABLE 1. ALLATIVE

	Affirmative	Negative
1	zâ: ni	bà zâ: ni ... ba / bà zân ... ba
2m	zâ: ka	bà zâ: ka ... ba
2f	zâ: ki	bà zâ: ki ... ba
3m	zâ: ʃi / zâ: ja / zâi	bà <zâ: ʃi / zâ: ja / zâi> ...ba
3f	zâ: ta	bà zâ: ta ... ba

1p	zâ: mu	bà zâ: mu ... ba
2p	zâ: ku	bà zâ: ku ... ba
3p	zâ: su	bà zâ: su ... ba
4	zâ: a	bà zâ: a ... ba

10.2 Verbal sentences – TAM marking

The minimal verbal sentence consists of an intransitive verb with its conjugation marks. In Hausa, these are a PNG+TAM complex forming a word preceding the verb. In accordance with Hausa tradition, instead of PNG.TAM, we may occasionally use the term “subject pronoun” to refer to this complex.

	PNG.TAM	Verb
Ex 17.	sun	tsajà:
	3pl.pfv.nfoc	stop
	They stopped. (BC)	

Actually, (17) is truncated through the ellipsis of the lexical subject, leaving only the agreement morpheme, or light subject (PNG=3PL), within the PNG.TAM complex.

A complete intransitive sentence takes the form: Subject + [PNG.TAM + Verb]

	Subject	PNG.TAM	Verb
Ex 18.	ma:ta:	sun	tsajà:
	femme.PL	3pl.pfv.nfoc	stop
	The women stopped. (BC)		

A complete transitive sentence takes the form: Subject + [PNG.TAM + [Verb+Object]]

	Subject	PNG.TAM	Verb	Object
Ex 19.	ma:ta:	sun	dafà	àbinfi
	femme.PL	3pl.pfv.nfoc	cook	food
	The women cooked food. (BC)			

The PNG component of the agreement complex allows for the usual three persons, plus a fourth indefinite person, corresponding to French ‘*on*’. Gender is marked in the singular in the second and third persons. This makes for conjugational paradigms of nine PNG.TAM morphemes.

The basis of the Hausa conjugation is a three-way aspectual contrast between the Perfect (PFV, with a completive meaning), the Continuous (CONT) and the Subjunctive (SBJV).

Added to this three-way contrast, Hausa has two Futures - a (simple) Future (FUT) and a Potential or Indefinite Future (FUT.INDF) - a Habitual (HAB), and a Rhetorical (RHT¹⁷).

Hausa has developed special paradigms for verbs used in subordinate clauses. Subordination is linked to Wh-Questions, relative clauses and focus¹⁸. Thus, it has two Perfect and two Continuous paradigms, one which is compatible with focus, Wh-Questions and relativization (PFV.FOC and CONT.FOC) and one which is not (PFV.NFOC and CONT.NFOC). The Subjunctive is not compatible with subordination; the Future (FUT) is used instead.

Negation of verbal sentences is partially or totally integrated into the subject pronouns, giving rise to additional paradigms.

¹⁷ We have not found any instance of this aspect described by Paul Newman (2000:588-90).

¹⁸ Subordination is the syntactic manifestation of preconstruction. Cf. Caron 2000.

PNG + TAM Paradigms

TABLE 2. PERFECT

	Perfect (PFV)	Relative Perfect (PFV.FOC)	Negative Perfect (NEG1a.PFV... NEG1b)
1 s.	<i>na:</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>bàn... ba</i>
2 m.s.	<i>ka:</i>	<i>ka</i>	<i>bàkà... ba</i>
2 f.s.	<i>kin</i>	<i>kikà</i>	<i>bàki... ba</i>
3 m.s.	<i>ja:</i>	<i>ja</i>	<i>bàì... ba</i>
3 f.s.	<i>ta:</i>	<i>ta</i>	<i>bàtà... ba</i>
1 pl.	<i>mun</i>	<i>mukà</i>	<i>bàmù... ba</i>
2 pl.	<i>kun</i>	<i>kukà</i>	<i>bàkù... ba</i>
3 pl.	<i>sun</i>	<i>sukà</i>	<i>bàsù... ba</i>
4	<i>an</i>	<i>akà</i>	<i>bà'à... ba</i>

TABLE 3. CONTINUOUS

	Continuous (CONT)	Relative Continuous (CONT.FOC)	Negative Continuous ("have" constructs, NEG2 CONT)	Negative Continuous (other constructs, NEG3 CONT)
1 s.	<i>inà:</i>	<i>nakè: / nikè:</i>	<i>ba: nà:</i>	<i>bâ: nì¹⁹</i>
2 m.s.	<i>kanà:</i>	<i>kakè:</i>	<i>ba: kà:</i>	<i>bâ: ka</i>
2 f.s.	<i>kinà:</i>	<i>kikè:</i>	<i>ba: kjà:</i>	<i>bâ: ki</i>
3 m.s.	<i>janà: / jinà:</i>	<i>jakè: / jikè:</i>	<i>ba: jà:</i>	<i>bâ: ji</i>
3 f.s.	<i>tanà:</i>	<i>takè:</i>	<i>ba: tà:</i>	<i>bâ: ta</i>
1 pl.	<i>munà:</i>	<i>mukè:</i>	<i>ba: mà:</i>	<i>bâ: mu</i>
2 pl.	<i>kunà:</i>	<i>kukè:</i>	<i>ba: kwà:</i>	<i>bâ: ku</i>
3 pl.	<i>sunà:</i>	<i>sukè:</i>	<i>ba: sà:</i>	<i>bâ: su</i>
4	<i>anà:</i>	<i>akè:</i>	<i>ba: à:</i>	<i>bâ: a</i>

Etymologically, the Continuous is derived from a locative construction meaning “be at X” where X is an infinitive, a verbal noun expressing an action, or an action noun. The Continuous subject pronouns are also used in nonverbal predication where they are followed by locative or possessive constructions. When the nominal or pronominal subject is explicit, the PNG index of the subject pronoun can be omitted:

Ex 20. *fì: kè: fì: dà nì: /*
 3SG.M CONT.FOC feeding APPL 1SG.IDPT /
 he is the one feeding me ([HAU_BC_CONV_01_SP2_238](#))

Unlike all other paradigms²⁰, the Continuous subject pronouns are followed by an Infinitive, a Verbal Noun (NV), or an action noun. Depending on their morpho-syntactic class (cf. § 14.1), verbs will use Infinitives and/or Verbal Nouns to form a Continuous TAM.

Infinitive. The infinitive is characterized by the nominalising suffix *-lwaa* applied to the lexical form of the verb, i.e. the Perfect, when the verb is not followed by a Direct Object²¹:

	Perfect	Continuous
Ex 21.	<i>Mu:sa: ja: tsajà:</i>	<i>Mu:sa: janà: tsajà:-wa:</i>
	Musa has stopped	Musa is stopping

When the infinitive is followed by a Direct Object, it is identical with the Perfect:

¹⁹ = <ZR> *bân*, e.g. *nì: bân wà:jo: na: san sâ: ba!* ‘Me, I was not clever enough to have seen a bull!’ ([HAU_BC_Conv_01_SP2_303](#))

²⁰ In Ader Hausa, the Future behaves like the SH Continuous, i.e. the subject pronouns are followed by a nominalized form of the verb (Caron 1991).

²¹ /˩/ stands for a floating Low tone which combines with a final High tone of the verb to produce a Falling tone.

	Perfect	Continuous
Ex 22.	sun <u>ka:mà</u> bàraunija: They have caught the robber.	sunà: <u>ka:mà</u> bàraunija: They are catching the robber.
	sun <u>ka:mà:</u> ta They have caught her.	sunà: <u>ka:mà:</u> ta They are catching her.

Verbal Noun. In the Continuous, some verbs use a nominal form that behaves fully like a noun in so far as it uses a possessive link (POSL) *-n* to form a Noun Phrase with its Direct Object. This is the verbal noun (NV), cf. **ja:** ‘drink’ and its NV **jâ:** (m.)²².

	Perfect	Continuous
Ex 23.	sun ja: ta:bà They have smoked tobacco.	sunà: jân (< jâ:-n) ta:bà They are smoking tobacco.

Action Noun. Action Nouns are a subclass of nouns compatible with the Continuous TAM marker, and denoting an action. They are part of the basic vocabulary and have a plural form: **aiki:** (pl. **ajjukà:**, **àikàtfe-àikàtfe**) ‘work(ing)’; **wa:kà:** (pl. **wa:ko:kì:**, **wà:ke-wà:ke**) ‘sing(ing)’; **rawa:** (pl. **ràje-ràje**) ‘dance/dancing’; **ku:ka:** (m.; pl. **kò:ke-kò:ke**) ‘cry(ing)’/

Ex 24.	karfè: takwàs munà: aiki: //
	o'clock eight 1PL.CONT.NFOC work //
	Sometimes we would stay there, by seven o'clock <u>we were working</u> .
	(HAU_BC_CONV_04_SP1_1086)

With other aspects than the Continuous, Action Nouns appear as Direct Objects of the verb **ji** ‘do’. See (Ex 25) below with an Action Noun following a Subjunctive:

Ex 25.	tô: ai do:lè kà ji aiki: //
	well indeed must 2SG.M.SBJV do work //
	Well, you had to work. (HAU_BC_CONV_04_SP1_1103)

TABLE 4. SUBJUNCTIVE			TABLE 5. FUTURE		
	Subjunctive (SBJV)	Negative Subjunctive (NEG5.SBJV)		Future (FUT)	Negative Future (NEG1a.FUT... NEG1b)
1	in	kadà/kâr in	1	zân / za: nì	bà/bà: zân ... ba /
2m	kà	kadà/kâr kà	2m	za: kà	bà/bà: za: kà ... ba
2f	kì	kadà/kâr kì	2f	za: kì	bà/bà: za: kì ... ba
3m	jà	kadà/kâr jà	3m	zâi / za: jà	bà/bà: zâi ...ba /
3f	tà	kadà/kâr tà	3f	za: tà	bà/bà: za: jà ... ba
1p	mù	kadà/kâr mù	1p	za: mù	bà/bà: za: tà ... ba
2p	kù	kadà/kâr kù	2p	za: kù	bà/bà: za: mù ... ba
3p	sù	kadà/kâr sù	3p	za: sù	bà/bà: za: kù ... ba
4	à	kadà/kâr à	4	za: à	bà/bà: za: sù ... ba
					bà/bà: za: à ... ba

The simple Future (Table 5) is made up of a TAM **za:** (etymologically derived from a verb ‘to go’) followed by a PNG from the object paradigm, in a reverse order from what obtains in the other subject pronouns.²

²² In Standard Hausa, the Possessive Link is *-n* for masculine and **-t, -n* in Zaria Hausa.

TABLE 6. INDEFINITE FUTURE²³

	Indefinite Future FUT.INDF	Neg. Indef. Future NEG1A FUT.INDF... NEG1B
1	<i>nâ:</i>	<i>bà nâ: ... ba</i>
2m	<i>kâ:</i>	<i>bà kâ: ... ba</i>
2f	<i>kjâ:</i>	<i>bà kjâ: ... ba</i>
3m	<i>jâ:</i>	<i>bà jâ: ... ba</i>
3f	<i>tâ:</i>	<i>bà tâ: ... ba</i>
1p	<i>mâ:/mwâ:</i>	<i>bà mâ:/mwâ: ... ba</i>
2p	<i>kwâ:</i>	<i>bà kwâ: ... ba</i>
3p	<i>sâ:/swâ:</i>	<i>bà sâ:/swâ: ... ba</i>
4	<i>â:</i>	<i>bà â: ... ba</i>

TABLE 7. HABITUAL

	Habitual HAB	Neg. Habitual NEG1A HAB...NEG1B
1	<i>nakàn</i>	<i>bà nakàn ... ba</i>
2m	<i>kakàn</i>	<i>bà kakàn ... ba</i>
2f	<i>kikàn</i>	<i>bà kikàn ... ba</i>
3m	<i>jakàn</i>	<i>bà jakàn ... ba</i>
3f	<i>takàn</i>	<i>bà takàn ... ba</i>
1p	<i>mukàn</i>	<i>bà mukàn ... ba</i>
2p	<i>kukàn</i>	<i>bà kukàn ... ba</i>
3p	<i>sukàn</i>	<i>bà sukàn ... ba</i>
4	<i>akàn</i>	<i>bà akàn ... ba</i>

For the Habitual (Table 7), as for the Continuous, when the nominal subject is explicit, the PNG can be omitted.

TABLE 8. RHETORICAL (RH)

1	<i>nikà:</i>
2m	<i>kakà:</i>
2f	<i>kikà:</i>
3m	<i>jakà:</i>
3f	<i>takà:</i>
1p	<i>mukà:</i>
2p	<i>kukà:</i>
3p	<i>sukà:</i>
4	<i>akà:</i>

This TAM (RH) is restricted to subordination and is not used in the negative. When the Nominal Subject is explicit, the third person PNG is omitted.

TAM Semantics

The Perfect (PFV.NFOC) has the general meaning of a completive aspect. It is used only in non-relative, affirmative sentences and expresses actions that were completed or reached a resultative state prior to the temporal locus. Generic events, such as expressed in proverbs, make use of the Perfect. Stative verbs, e.g. ‘love’, ‘understand’, and impersonal complement-taking verbs (cf. Ex 26 below) also use the Perfect.

Ex 26.	<i>Ja:</i>	<i>kàma:tà</i>	<i>kà</i>	<i>bija:</i>	<i>hàra:ḡi:.</i>
	3S.PFV.NFOC	be_proper	2SG.M.SBJV	pay	taxes
	You should pay taxes. (BC)				

The Relative Perfect (PFV.FOC) has two main uses:

- **syntactic uses:** it replaces the Perfect in subordinative contexts (Relatives, Wh-Questions, and Focus);
 - Relative clauses

Ex 27.	<i>lo:kàḡi:</i>	<i>-nì</i>	<i>dà</i>	<i>sukà</i>	<i>zo:</i>	<i>/</i>
	time	-DEF	REL	3PL.PFV.FOC	come	/

<i>mè:</i>	<i>nè:</i>	<i>fà:ru</i>	<i>à</i>	<i>wuḡi:</i>	<i>-nì</i>	<i>//</i>
what	COP1.NFOC	happen	at	place	-DEF	//

When [*lit.* at the time when] they came, what happened there ? ([HAU_BC_CONV_01_SPI_028-9](#))

²³ The Negative Indefinite Future has many dialect variants. Cf. (Newman 2000:586).

– Wh-Questions

Ex 28. **ta** **jà:jà:** **akà** **sa:mù** **ga:nuwa:** **-nì** **nan** //
 via how 4.PFV.FOC get rampart -DEF ANAPH //
 [...] how was it that we got that city wall ? ([HAU BC CONV 02 SP1 169](#))

– Focus

Ex 29. **dà** **no:ma:** **-nì** **ja** **dò:gaṛà**
 with farming -DEF 3SG.M.PFV.FOC rely
ko: **kùwa** **jakàn** **ji** **wani** **àbù** //
 or as_for 3SG.M.HAB do some.M thing //
 Was it on farming that he was relying, or did he do something else? ([HAU BC CONV 01 SP1 078](#))

- **aspectual uses:** in narrations, it denotes a succession of discrete events.

Ex 30. **sukà** **ji** **firi:** **sukà** **figa** **masalla:fi:**
 3PL.PFV.FOC do preparation 3PL.PFV.FOC enter mosque
sukà **du:kà:**
 3PL.PFV.FOC stoop_down
 They got ready, they entered the mosque, they stooped down. (PN:573)

The Continuous (CONT and CONT.FOC) subject pronouns have two separate types of uses:

- **aspectual uses** expressing ongoing action or durativity, without specific reference to time. They can also express normal, customary or habitual actions. Their meaning is compatible with past, present or future interpretations.

Ex 31. **tà:re** **kukè:** **sàna:'à:** **-n** **no:ma:** **dà** **su:** //
 together 2PL.CONT.FOC profession -POSL farming with 3PL //
 Were you farming TOGETHER with them? (Lit. Is it together that you were farming with them?) ([HAU BC CONV 01 SP1 050](#))

- **non-aspectual** uses, with locative, stative, or possessive meanings.
 - *Location*, when followed by a Prepositional Phrase, an adverb or a noun of place:

Ex 32. **kà:wu:** **-na:** **janà:** **wannàn** **ùnguwa:** **-n** **fulà:ni:** //
 uncle -1SG.POS 3SG.M.CONT.NFOC PROX quarter -POSL Fulanis //
 my uncle, he is in this Fulani Quarter. ([HAU BC CONV 01 SP2 198](#))

- *Stative* constructions with predicates expressing state, such as Adjectives or Statives, e.g. **zàune** ‘seated’ from the verb **zaunà:** ‘sit down’:

Ex 33. **ita** **ma:** **tanà:** **zàune** **à** **nân** /
 3SG.F even 3SG.F.CONT.NFOC staying at PROX /
 As for her, does she live here [...] ? ([HAU BC CONV 01 SP1 007](#))

- *Possession* (“have constructs”). The form is that of a comitative construction with the preposition **dà** ‘with’:

Ex 34. **tò:** **fi:** / **janà:** **dà** **jâ:ra:** **nè:** **kàman** **-kà** //
 well 3SG.M / 3SG.M.CONT.NFOC with child \PL COP1.NFOC like -2SG.M //
 Well he, does he have children like you? ([HAU BC CONV 01 SP1 048-9](#))

The ‘have construct’ can also express a quality:

Ex 35. **àbintfi** **janà:** **dà** **da:di:**
 food 3SG.CONT.NFOC with pleasure
 The food is tasty. (BC)

The Subjunctive has modal functions. It expresses orders (jussive), wishes (optative), and epistemic modalities (necessity, etc.), either directly or following a verb or an expression inducing this type of function.

Ex 36. *allà: dai fi ka:ɾà: manà la:fijà: //*
 God indeed 3SG.M.SBJV increase 1PL.BEN health //
 May God keep us in good health. ([HAU BC CONV 04 SP1 1182](#))

It appears after the conjunction **sei** with habitual meanings, e.g. in proverbs or recipe-type discourses:

Ex 37. *sei mù ɕe: mù kai fi kà:suwa: //*
 then 1PL.SBJV go 1PL.SBJV carry 3SG.M market //
fi: ma: mù ɕe: mù sajar //
 3SG.M even 1PL.SBJV go 1PL.SBJV sell.CAUS //
 [When we had cooked the doughnuts] we took (them), carried (them) to the market.
 Actually, we went to sell (them). ([HAU BC CONV 01 SP2 107-9](#))

The Future expresses future and/or intentional actions or events. It occurs in both main and subordinate propositions.

Ex 38. *an ɕimà: fa / ina: za:ki ɕe: //*
 4.PFV.NFOC spend_time indeed / where FUT.2SG.F go //
 Later on, where will you go? ([HAU BC CONV 03 SP2 026-8](#))

The Future is compatible with [+Focus] utterances, as (Ex. 33) with a WH-Question shows. It can refer to futurity in the past:

Ex 39. *zâi dàuka: -i hukunfi: à kâi -n -ki //*
 FUT.3SG.M take -ACC1 punishment AT head -POSL -2SG.F //
 [...] he will punish you. ([HAU BC CONV 03 SP2 058-60](#))

The Indefinite Future or Potential is defined by P. Newman as “indicating an action that will possibly take place in the future (God willing). [...] It differs from the normal future in having a lesser degree of certainty and a lesser element of intentionality or commitment.” (2000:587). It cannot appear in [+Focus] contexts, where it is replaced by the simple Future.

Ex 40. *wàtàki:là makàfa: sâ: dà:wo:*
 maybe drummers 3PL.FUT.INDF come
 Maybe the drum players will come back. (PN:587)

It is found in proverbs:

Ex 41. *ko:wa: ja hadjè tabarja: jâ: kwa:na: tsàje*
 whoever 3SG.PFV.FOC swallow pestle 3SG.FUT.INDF spend_night standing_up
 Whoever swallows a pestle will spend the night standing. (Evil will rebound on the doer.)
 (*ibid.*)

It is used to express latent threats:

Ex 42. *kjâ: gâmu dà fi: /*
 2SG.M.FUT.INDF meet with 3SG.M //
 Well, (sooner or later) you will see him [he has already said he will punish you.]
 ([HAU BC CONV 03 SP2 057](#))

Most commonly, it is found in greetings and their answers:

Ex 43. *kà gai dà gida*
 2SG.M.SBJV greet with home

sâ **ɗi**
2PL.FUT.INDF hear

- Greet your people! (lit. Greet [them] at home!) - I will! (lit. They will hear!) (BC)

The habitual denotes a habit, without any explicit reference to time.

Ex 44. **akàn** **sa:mù matsala:** **iri:** **-nì** **na** **wānnan** //
4.HAB GET problem TYPE -DEF POSL PROX //
We usually get that kind of problem. ([HAU BC CONV 01 SP2 667](#))

The Rhetorical. This little-studied set of subject pronouns cannot be used outside subordination, and has no negative form. The third person PNG can be omitted when a nominal subject is present. The Rhetorical, which does not appear in our corpus, has been described by Paul Newman as follows:

“It is used primarily in set expressions, idioms, epithets, proverbs, compounds, and such, but not exclusively so. [...] The rhetorical implies doubt or even a dare with respect to the possibility of achieving some action. It is often best translated with such English modals as ‘should’ or ‘could’. As the name indicates, it is commonly used in rhetorical questions or statements” (2000:589)

11 Nouns and Noun Phrases

Noun phrases (NP) consist of a head noun with optional pre-nominal and/or postnominal elements. The head of the NP may be a noun, conjoined nouns, nouns in a possessive (X of Y) relationship, a compound noun, etc. The head is optionally accompanied by specifying or modifying elements. Some of these, e.g. the demonstratives (excluding the deictics indicating ‘this, that’, etc.) and the personal pronouns functioning as modifiers, occur only before the head; a large number of elements, like the definite article and relative clauses, occur only after the head. A few items, namely the deictic demonstratives and simple adjectives, occur in both pre-nominal and post-nominal position.

11.1 The HeadNouns

Hausa nouns are marked for gender and number. There are two genders in Hausa: masculine and feminine. This contrast is neutralized in the plural. Gender is assigned to nouns and adjectives according to biological sex whenever possible; otherwise, lexical items have arbitrary gender, with a two-way distinction: m/pl or f/pl.

m	f	pl	
ɗà:ki:	ɗà:ka:	ɗà:kai	donkey (n.)
fa:ri:	fa:ra:	fa:ra:re:	white (adj.)
ɗi:rgi:		ɗi:ra:ge:	vehicle (n.)
	go:na:	gò:nàki:	farm (n.)

<ZR> In the Zaria dialect of Hausa transcribed in the corpus, grammatical gender and its exponents, such as agreement in the noun system, have been lost and only survive in the pronominal system when referring to a woman.

Gender

There is a strong statistical tendency for feminine nouns to end in /a/ and masculine nouns in one of the other vowels or in consonants.

Ex. (a) /a/=feminine

go:ra:	bamboo	gwi:wà:	knee
ra:na:	sun, day	fa:dà	emir’s palace
ku:kà:	baobab	là?adà:	commission
sàura:	fallow	wùya:	difficulty

Ex. (b) other vowels = masculine

tsuntsu:	bird	kàre:	dog
go:rò	cola nut	bò:ɾi:	cult of possession
kâi	head		

However, a certain number of feminine nouns end in a vowel other than /a/, e.g. **màcè** ‘wife’; **tè:ku** ‘sea’; **gwamnati** ‘government’, etc. Masculine nouns ending in /a/ are more numerous:

bàka:	bow	ba:ya:	back
dawà	bush	duma:	calabash fruit
gàba:	chest	gida:	compound
girma:	pride, large size	gò:ɾa:	gourd
gùda:	lump in tuwo	gù:ga:	well pail

According to Newman (2000:210), Hausa has a toneless suffix **-a:** marking the feminine. Following certain phonological rules, this same suffix has the following variants: **-ja:**, **-wa:**, **-ija:** and **-uwa:**.²⁴

(be:be:)^{HH} + (a:)^H	be:bija:	dumb and mute
(shu:ɗi:)^{HB} + (a:)^H	shu:ɗija:	blue
(ka:tò:)^{HB} + (a:)^H	ka:tùwa:	enormous
(bà:ko:)^{BH} + (a:)^H	bà:kuwa:	foreign

Plurals

Hausa plurals are very complex and formed by a combination of suffixes, infixes and sometimes reduplication²⁵. Plural formation is governed by the following rules:

- (1) The final vowel of the singular is dropped when the plural affix is added.
- (2) The tone pattern of the plural replaces the tones of the singular and is distributed over the plural in a right to left manner with the leftmost tone continuing to spread over all available syllables.
- (3) When occurring before suffixal front vowels (*i:* and *e:*) the alveolar consonants **t**, **s**, **z**, and, less regularly, **d** palatalize to **ɸ**, **j**, and **ɕ** respectively (both **z** and **d** becoming **ɕ**), e.g. **bisa:** ‘pack animal’ has the reduplicated plural form **bisà:je:** (PL4 <-a:Ce:> where the final syllable **je:** derives from **se:**). Likewise, **w** palatalizes to **j**, e.g. the plural of **bàra:wò:** ‘thief’ is **bàrà:ji:** (PL14 <-i:>).
- (4) The palatal consonants **ɸ**, **j**, and **ɕ** occurring in the singular before word-final *i:* and *e:* generally depalatalize to **t**, **s** and **z** respectively, when followed by a plural suffix beginning with a non-front vowel, e.g. **hantfi:** ‘nose’, plural **hantunà:** (PL19 <-unà:>), **maɸfi:ɕji:** ‘snake’, plural **màɸfi:zai** (PL5 <-aì:>).
- (5) **C₃** stands for a third consonant added to the stem in the plural. Otherwise, **C** represents a copy or reduplication of the preceding consonant. If either of these is alveolar and occurs before a front vowel (*i:* or *e:*), it is palatalized as indicated above in (3).

See the list of Plural glosses (lge) used in the corpus and relevant comments in Table (10). We have adapted Newman’s transcription to follow the conventions of the CorpAfroAs project. Not all these plurals are represented in the corpus.

TABLE 9. PLURAL CLASSES

PL1	-à:C ₃ a: [H-L-H] e.g. sirdi:/sirà:da: ‘saddle’
PL2	-à:C ₃ e: [H-L-H], e.g. gulbi:/gulà:be: ‘stream’
PL3	-à:C ₃ u: [H-L-H], e.g. kuɾmi:/kuɾà:mu: ‘grove’
PL4	-à:Ce: [H-L-H], e.g. wuɾi:/wuɾà:re: ‘place’ kasà:/kasà:je: ‘country’
PL5	-ai [L-H], e.g. ma:là:/mà:làmai ‘teacher’
PL6	-ànni: [L-H], e.g. watà:/wàtànni: ‘moon’
PL7	-a:wa: [all H, or L-L-H] (if the singular word contains the prefix bà- , it is dropped when the plural is added, e.g.

²⁴ Newman (2000:210) describes two other derivative feminine suffixes (**-ija:** and **-ja:**) limited to a small number of nouns.

²⁵ Adapted from Newman (2007:xv)

²⁶ (Newman 2007:xvi).

	<i>Bàkanò:/Kana:wa:</i> ‘Kano person’.) The tone pattern is usually all high, e.g. <i>talàkà/talaka:wa:</i> ‘commoner’; however trisyllabic plurals with a heavy first syllable typically are L-L-H, e.g. <i>ku:ri:/kù:rà:wa:</i> ‘novice Koranic student’, <i>Bàhaufè:/Hàusà:wa:</i> ‘Hausa person’.
PL8	-à:je: [H-L-H], e.g. <i>zo:mo:/zo:mà:je:</i> ‘hare’
PL9	-Ca: [F-H], e.g. <i>tabò:/tābba:</i> ‘scar’
PL10	-Cai [L-H], e.g. <i>tudù:/tūddai</i> ‘high ground’
PL11	-(à)tfe with full reduplication [L-H - L-H], e.g. <i>tʃi:wò:/tʃiwà:tfe-ci:wà:tfe</i> ‘illness’. (If the stem contains three consonants, the à vowel is omitted, e.g. <i>wàhalà:/wàhàltfe-wàhàltfe</i> ‘difficulty’).
PL12	-unà: [H-L], e.g. <i>tʃiki:/tʃikkunà:</i> ‘belly’
PL13	-e with full reduplication [L-H - L-H], e.g. <i>tʃamfi:/tʃàmfe-tʃàmfe</i> ‘superstition’
PL14	-i: [L-H], e.g. <i>tàurà:/tò:tàurà:ri:</i> ‘star’
PL15	-o:ci: [all H], e.g. <i>ta:gà:/ta:go:gi:</i> ‘window’, <i>mo:tà:/mo:to:tʃi:</i> ‘car’.
PL16	-u: [L-H], e.g. <i>kuɕɕè:/ra:/kùɕɕè:ru:</i> ‘chair’
PL17	-uC3à: [H-L], e.g. <i>tʃo:kàli:/tʃo:kulà:</i> ‘spoon’. (The final consonant of the plural is often doubled, especially when the initial syllable of the stem contains a short vowel, e.g. <i>daràsi:/darussà:</i> ‘lesson’.)
PL18	-ukà: [H-L], e.g. <i>la:ji:/la:jukkà:</i> ‘lane’
PL19	-nà: [H-L], e.g. <i>ri:ga:/ri:gunà:</i> ‘gown’
PL20	Full reduplication, e.g. <i>àkà:wu/ àkà:wu- àkà:wu</i> ‘clerk’

Compound nouns

The head of a NP can be a compound noun, i.e. two or more words joined in such a way as to make a single lexical unit, e.g. *faɾar-hù:la:*²⁷ (lit. white-PL cap) ‘civilian’. They behave like ordinary nouns insofar as they are sensitive to gender and number²⁸. The internal structure of these compound nouns follows various patterns:

- **Noun-linked compounds:** N- POSL N, e.g. *ɗan-sànda:* ‘policeman’ (son- POSL stick); *àbo:kin gà:ba:* ‘enemy’ (friend- POSL enmity);
- **Adjective-Noun compounds:** *bakin-ciki:* (black-POSL belly) ‘sadness’; *ɕan-karfè:* (red-POSL iron) ‘copper’;
- **Verbal compounds:** *hàná-sallà* (prevent prayer) ‘baseball cap’; *dàfà:-dukà* (cook all) ‘Jollof rice’; *fà:dí-kà-mutù* (fall you die) ‘chinaware’;
- **Phrasal compounds:** *bàbba:-dà-ɕàka:* (Mr. Big with bag) ‘marabou stork’; *ja:ki:-dà-ɕa:hilʃi:* (war with ignorance) ‘adult literacy program’;
- **Agentive compounds:** *magà:-takàrda:* (one_who_sees paper) ‘scribe’; *mafà:-ruwa:* (one_who_drinks water) ‘rainbow’;
- **Sentential compounds:** *bà:-hajà:* (there_is_no hiring) ‘public toilet’; *kà:kà:-nikà:-ji* (how 1S.RHET do) ‘dilemma’.

Conjoined nouns

Nouns conjoined through coordination can function as NP head.

‘And’

Simple coordination uses the conjunction *dà* ‘and’, e.g. *gida: dà mo:tà:* ‘house and car’; *kàza: dà kàza:* ‘one thing and another, this and that’. In principle, the number of Ns that can be conjoined is limitless. The first term can be preceded by a *dà*, e.g. *dà Bellò dà Mu:sa:* ‘Bello and Musa’; *dà za:ka: dà dà:misà:* ‘a lion and a leopard’. When pronouns are conjoined with a noun, the pronoun comes first: in the case of pronouns; the order is 1st, then 2nd then 3rd persons, e.g. *ji: dà Mu:sa:* ‘him and Musa’; *ita dà Bintà* ‘her and Binta’; *dà ni: dà ji:/ita/su:* ‘me and him/her/them’.

‘Or’

Disjunction is marked by *ko:* and follows the same rules as *dà*, e.g. *Litinîn ko: Tàla:tà: ko: Là:rà:ba:* ‘Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday’; *ko: biju ko: ukù* ‘two or three’; *ni: ko: kai* ‘me or you’.

NB: Not only simple nouns but whole NPs can be conjoined, e.g. *faɾin tsuntsu: dà do:guwar bijijà:* ‘a white bird and a big tree’; *ɾà:go: ɗaja dà tuma:ki: go:mà* ‘a ram and ten sheep’.

²⁷ The hyphen in these compound nouns is not part of an affix, but is kept from the orthographic conventions. It has been removed from the glosses.

²⁸ Cf. (Newman:109-124) for a study of gender and plurals of compound nouns.

The Possessive Construction

The Possessive link (POSL) *na/ta/na* (m./f./pl.) is an essential syntactic tool in Hausa. Its main use is to connect an NP with a following NP or adverb in an “X of Y” construction, where X is the possessed and Y is the possessor²⁹. Like the identifying copula *ne:/tfe:/ne:*, it agrees in gender and number with the first (possessed) NP.

The POSL has two forms, a free form (*na/ta/na*³⁰) and a bound form. If we take the words *gida:* (m.) ‘house’ *go:na:* (f.) ‘farm’; and *gidà:ɗe:* (pl.) ‘houses’ with *sarki:* (m.) ‘chief’ as possessor, we get the following possessive constructions:

<i>gida: na sarki:</i>	<i>gida-n sarki:</i>	the chief’s house
<i>go:na: ta sarki:</i>	<i>go:na-r sarki:</i>	the chief’s farm
<i>gidà:ɗe: na sarki:</i>	<i>gidà:ɗe-n sarki:</i>	the chief’s houses

NB: (a) the suffixation of the POSL to long final vowels, e.g. *go:na:-r* creates a closed syllable (CVV-C>CVC) entailing the shortening of the vowel, hence *go:nar:*. (b) likewise, the diphthongs /ai/ and /au/ are simplified, e.g. *kjân* (<*kjâu-n*) *ja:ɾinjà:* ‘beautiful girl’ (lit. beauty of the girl), *mân* (<*mâi-n*) *ja:nu:* ‘butter’ (lit. oil of cow); (c) the use of the *-n* form has been extended to feminine words that do not end in /a/, e.g. *gwamnati-n Ingilà* ‘the English government’, where *gwamnati* (f.) ends in /i/.

The bound form of the POSL (*-n/-r/-n*) is the default form. The free form (*na/ta/na*) is used when the thing possessed is elliptical or separated from the possessor, as when topicalized, e.g. *mo:târ nân, ta sarki: tfe:* ‘that car is that of the chief’. It is also used to form ordinal numerals with the structure N - POSL - NUM, e.g. *litta:fi: na biju* ‘the second book’, or to express measurement or value, e.g. *na:mà: na si:si:* ‘meat for a shilling’, *ɾi:ga: ta nairà: du:bù: dà ɾabi:* ‘a dress worth one thousand five hundred naira’.

11.2 Pre-nominal elements

Pre-nominal elements are divided into specifiers, i.e. (1) demonstratives, (2) personal pronouns used as specifiers, (3) universal quantifiers, and (4) the isolator *ɗaya:*; and modifiers, i.e. (5) adjectives.

Demonstratives

The label “demonstrative” is used by Newman (PN:147-54) as an umbrella term to cover all modifiers beginning with a *wa-* morpheme. Some function only as pronouns, e.g. *wànnè:?* ‘which one?’, some only as modifiers, e.g. *wànnè doki:?* ‘which horse?’ and others both as pronouns and modifiers, e.g. *wannàn ja: fi kjâu.* ‘This one is best.’; *wannàn bi:rò: ja: fi kyâu* ‘This ballpoint pen is best.’

TABLE 10. DEMONSTRATIVES

	M.	F.	PL.	\RX	\GE
this (by me)	<i>wannàn</i>	<i>wannàn</i>	<i>wàɗànnân</i>	PRO.DEICT DET.DEICT	PROX
this (by you)	<i>wànnan</i> <i>wânnan</i>	<i>wànnan</i> <i>wânnan</i>	<i>wàɗànnan</i> <i>wàɗànnan</i>	PRO.DEICT DET.DEICT	ANAPH
that (there)	<i>wantfàn</i>	<i>watfɛfàn</i>	<i>wàɗàntfân</i>	PRO.DEICT DET.DEICT	DIST
that (distant)	<i>wàntfân</i> <i>wântfân</i>	<i>wàtɛfɛfân</i> <i>wâtɛfɛfân</i>	<i>wàɗàntfân</i> <i>wàɗàntfân</i>	PRO.DEICT DET.DEICT	DIST2
which?	<i>wànnè</i>	<i>wàtɛfè</i>	<i>wàɗànnè</i>	DET.Q	which?
which one?	<i>wànnè:</i>	<i>wàtɛfè:</i>	<i>wàɗànnè:</i>	PRO.Q	which?

²⁹ The same POS is used for pre-nominal adjectives, e.g. *sa:bo-n gida:* ‘new house’ (lit. ‘new-of house’).

³⁰ The *na:ta:* variant with a long /a:/ is combined to the suffixed possessive pronouns to form the paradigm of the Independent Possessive Pronouns (cf. Table 16).

who, which, that	<i>wānda</i> <i>wandā</i> <i>wānda</i>	<i>wāddā</i> <i>waddā</i> <i>wāddā</i> <i>waṭṭfè</i> <i>wāṭṭfè</i>	<i>wadānda</i> <i>wādānda</i>	PRO.REL	who, which, that
some, other	<i>wani</i>	<i>wata</i>	<i>wa(dan)su</i>	PRO.INDEF DET.INDEF	some

The morphemes we have glossed DEICT can appear pronominally in the heavy **wa**-prefixed forms above, but also post-nominally without the **wa**- prefix, e.g. *waṭṭfàn kà:suwa* = *kà:suwar ṭfàn* ‘that market’. They are related to the adverbs *nān*, *ṭfān*, *nan*, *ṭfan*, with the same meaning. The second term in the set, corresponding to the *nan* adverb, on top of its ‘there by you’ meaning, has a frequent anaphoric function, hence our gloss ANAPH in the corpus. See PN:147-151 for a full description of the uses, meanings and distribution of these demonstratives in Standard Hausa.

Pronouns as pronominal modifiers

Indendant pronouns can be used as a modifier with “a particularizing function, i.e. [they serve] to pick out some particular person(s) or thing(s) as opposed to others.” (PN:155)

Ex 45. *an* *jabà:* *wà* *fi:* *àlka:lín*
 4.PFV.NFOC praise BEN 3SG.M (PRO.IDP) judge.DEF
 They praised him, the judge. (BC)

The 3pl pronoun **su** is used pronominally with common and proper nouns as an associative plural, e.g. *su Tankò* ‘Tanko *et al.*’, *su bàre:wa* ‘gazelles, etc.’.

Universal quantifiers

The global quantifier **duk/dukà** ‘all’ can occur as a modifier, a pronoun and an adverb. As a modifier, it can be pre-nominal, with the form **duk**, or post-nominal, with the form **dukà**, e.g. *duk mutà:ne*.³¹ = *mutà:ne: dukà* ‘all the people.’

The distributive quantifier *ko:wàné* (f. *ko:wāṭfè*, pl. *ko:wādānnè*) ‘every, whichever’ is another pre-nominal specifier, e.g. *ko:wàné mùtúm* ‘each man’, *ko:wāṭfè kasa* ‘each country’.

The isolator *ḍaya*

The numeral **ḍaya** ‘one’ which usually occurs post-nominally as a modifier, e.g. *mo:tà: ḍaya* ‘one car’, can occur pre-nominally as as specifier, with the noun in the definite form, e.g. *ḍaya mo:tà:* ‘the other car’.

Adjectives as pre-nominal modifiers

The typical pre-nominal modifier is a simple attributive adjective. Its structure is <Adjective- POSL N>. The adjective agrees in gender and number with the noun, and can be preceded by the diminutive *ḍan/yar/yan*, e.g. *júddan ṛi:gunà:* ‘blue gowns’ (ADJ.PL-POSL.PL N.PL), *ḍan kàramin ja:ṛò:* ‘a little boy’ (DIM.M ADJ.M-POSL N). Adjectives can be stacked, e.g. *zungure:rijar tso:fuwar faṛar mo:tà:* ‘a very long old white car’ (ADJ.F-POSL.F ADJ.F-POSL.F ADJ.F-POSL.F N)³²

³¹ Pronounced [*dummutà:ne*]; the pronominal quantifier **duk** is often realized as **duG**, with its final consonant assimilating to the initial consonant of the noun.

³² PN:371

11.3 Post-nominal elements

Post-nominal specifiers

These include (1) the definite article; (2) demonstrative determiners; (3) possessives; (4) numerals and quantifiers.

Definite article

What corresponds to the English definite article is the anaphoric suffix **-ln/-lr/-lñ** (m./f/pl/) glossed ANAPH in the corpus. The choice of the **-ln** or **-lr** form follows the same rules as for the POSL, i.e. **-lr** is suffixed to feminine nouns ending in /a/, and **-ln** elsewhere, e.g. **bàkân** 'the bow' (<**bàka**: (m.) **-ln**), **go:dījâr** 'the mare' (<**go:dīja**: (f.) **-lr**), **ùngùlùn** 'the vulture' (<**ùngùlu** (f.) **-ln**), **go:dījo:jīn** 'the mares' (<**go:dījo:ji**: (pl.) **-ln**).

Demonstrative determiners

The heavy forms of the pre-nominal deictics (vd. Table 10) occur post-nominally in the invariant light form **nân** 'this' (PROX), **nan** 'that near you, that previously mentioned' (ANAPH), **ḡân** 'that there' (DIST), **ḡan** 'that over there' (DIST2). They directly follow a noun with suffixed POSL, or a noun plus the connective **dī-** plus POSL, e.g. **do:kin nân** 'this horse', **ḡi:gâr nan** 'that gown' (near you or previously mentioned), **gidà:ḡen ḡân** 'those houses there', **ḡêk dīn nân** 'this check'. The forms **nân** and **ḡân** are realized **nàn** and **ḡàn** respectively when following a H tone.

Possessives

Possession, in the order < Possessed Possessor > where the thing possessed is the head noun, is indicated by a post-head noun or clitic pronoun³³ preceded by POSL **-n/-r/-t**, e.g. **ḡi:gâr Sulè** 'Sule's gown' (<**ḡi:ga**: **-r**), **do:kinsà** 'his horse' (<**do:ki**: **-n --sà**), **ḡêk dīntà** (<**ḡêk dī-n --tà**) 'her check'. If POSL is not attached directly to the head noun, it appears as **na:-/ta:-** prefixed to a possessive pronoun, or as **na/ta** before a noun, e.g. **do:kin nân na:sà** 'this horse of his'; **ḡi:gâr ta Sulè** 'the gown, Sule's'.

Numerals

Cardinal numbers and other quantitative specifiers such as the modifiers **dukà** 'all', **dà jawà**: 'plenty', the interrogative **nawà**: 'how many', as well as ideophones, directly follow the head noun, e.g. **nairà: dubu**: 'one thousand naira'; **so:ḡo:ḡi: dà jawà**: 'many soldiers' (lit. 'soldiers with plenty'), **mangwàrò nawà:?** 'how many mangoes?'; **yamma:ta: dukà** 'all the girls'; **mutà:ne: tīnḡim** 'lots of people' ('people IDEOPH').

Ordinal numbers are introduced by the free POSL **na/ta/na**, e.g. **ba:bi: na ukù** 'the third chapter'; **bàbban ja:kin du:nijà: na biju** 'the Second World War' (lit. big-of war-of world of two). When combined with other determiners, they come last: **mà:ta:ta: ta ukù** 'my third wife' (lit. 'wife-my of three').

Post-nominal modifiers

Adjectives

Post-nominal adjectives directly follow the noun they qualify. All adjectives occurring pre-nominally can occur post-nominally and be preceded by the diminutive **ḡan/yar/yān**, e.g. **kwa:li: bàbba** 'large carton'; **tuma:ki: yān kana:nà**: 'wee small lambs'. Post-nominal adjectives follow specifiers, e.g. **kwa:lin nân bàbba** 'this large carton'.

Possessive modifying nouns

The possessive construction (N- POSL N = 'N-of N'), where the second noun refers to an inanimate rather than an animate possessor, will be interpreted as a qualitative construction. This is used for a limited number of modifier nouns, e.g. **sanji**: 'cold', **za:fi**: 'heat', **karja**: 'lie', **ḡaskija**: 'truth', **kirki**: 'moral and social good', **banza**: 'stupidity', etc. as in **ḡuwan sanji**: 'cold water' (lit. 'water-of cold') **là:ba:ḡin karja**: 'false news' (lit. 'news-of lie') **mùtumin kirki**: 'a good man' (lit. 'man-of good'), **mān ḡa**: 'palm oil' (lit. 'oil-of red').

³³ See the full paradigm of suffixed (Table 15) and independent (Table 16) possessive pronouns.

The *mai* construction

The particle *mài* (pl. *mà:su*) ‘owner of’, and its negative counterpart *maṛàs* (= *maṛàr* = *maṛàG* where G geminates with the following consonant; pl. *maṛàsa*) followed by a series of nouns expressing a quality³⁴, will be used to attribute this quality or its absence to a noun, e.g. *ja:rinjà: mài kjâu* ‘beautiful girl’, *ʔi:ɕʝija: mài zuʔfi* ‘deep well’, *jâ:ra: maṛàsa: hankàli* ‘heedless children’.

The superlative modifier construction

On the same model as *mài*, a superlative qualitative construction can be formed with the short agentive *mafi*: (pl. *mafija*.) ‘lit. the one exceeding’ plus an object, e.g. *mo:tà: mafi:tsà:da* ‘the most expensive car’.

Prepositional phrases

Nouns may be modified by a post-head prepositional phrase, e.g. *wani te:bùr à da:ki:na* ‘a table in my room’; *da:libi: à ɕʝa:mi:’à* ‘university student’ (lit. ‘student at university’).

Stative phrases

Another type of post-nominal modifier is the phrase formed by a Stative + *dà* + NP, e.g. *bango: jà:fe dà fenti* ‘wall covered with paint’.

Relative clauses

Relative clauses occur only post-nominally. Their structure is REL+ embedded clause (with no change in the word order). The TAM in the embedded clause is chosen from the paradigms that are compatible with Focus. The REL is *dà* or a relative pronoun containing *dà*, e.g. *wandà*, *jaddà*, *indà*, etc. The antecedent of the relative must have some degree of definiteness; usually it bears the definite article suffix *-lɛ/-lɛ/-lɛ* (<ZR>`n)

Ex 46. *jànzú ma: màganà: -nì dà akè: jĩ: ja: ko:nè: /*
now even speech -DEF REL 4.CONT.FOC doing 3SG.M.PFV.NFOC dry_up /
Right now, what we were talking about [i.e. the river, *lit.* the speech that we were doing] has dried up. ([HAU_BC_CONV_01_SP2_659](#))

Other degrees of definiteness are possible, e.g. with the indefinite specifier *wani*:

Ex 47. *àkwai wani àbù -n tsò:ʔo: dà mukà tabà: gani: //*
COP3 some.M thing -POSL fear REL 1PL.PFV.FOC touch see //
there is something terrible that we saw. ([HAU_BC_CONV_01_SP2_123-4](#))

With numerals:

Ex 48. *kàman jè:kaʔà: biju dà sukà wuʔfè: /*
like year two REL 3PL.PFV.FOC pass_by /
over the past two years (the two years that have elapsed) ([HAU_BC_CONV_01_SP2_410](#))

When the pivot noun of the relative is modified by a universal quantifier (e.g. *ko:wa*, ‘everyone’), the result is a universal subordinate clause : *ko:wa: dà kukà gani* ‘whoever you may see’.

The *wai* construction

The particle *wai* introduces proper nouns as part of a post-nominal modifier meaning ‘called X’, e.g. *wata mace wai La:di* ‘a woman called Ladi’³⁵.

³⁴ These nouns belong to a phonologically and semantically distinct class named “Abstract Nouns of Sensory Quality” by F. Parsons. Cf (Parsons 1955) and (Newman 2000:13-18).

³⁵ Cf. its other uses as the particle glossed EVD (Evidential) in the corpus, found at the beginning of an utterance to cast a measure of doubt on what follows. It is translated in English by ‘it is said that...’. The same particle becomes a complementizer introducing reported speech. Reduplicated, it becomes the full noun *waiwai* ‘rumour, hearsay’.

12 Nominal derivation

12.1 *ma-* Agents, Place and Instruments

The H-tone prefix *ma-* is used to derive nouns of agent, place and instrument from a verb, e.g. *manò:mi:* ‘farmer’; *maḡe:mi:* ‘tannery’; *masassabi:* ‘harvesting tool’.

Agent nouns

All agent nouns use the same H-tone *ma-* prefix. In addition, masculine singulars add a suffix *-i:*^{LH}, which results in H-(L)-(L)-L-H tone patterns. Feminine singulars use the suffix *-ija:*^{HLH}. The plural suffix is *-a:*^{LH} resulting in the same tone pattern as the masculine.

TABLE 11. AGENT NOUNS

Verb	Agent Noun		
	M.	F.	PL.
<i>ginà:</i> build	<i>magini:</i>	<i>maginija:</i>	<i>magina:</i> mason
<i>dīnkà:</i> sew	<i>maḡinki:</i>	<i>maḡinkija:</i>	<i>maḡinka:</i> tailor
<i>ḡe:mà:</i> tan	<i>maḡe:mi:</i>	<i>maḡe:mija:</i>	<i>maḡe:ma:</i> tanner
<i>ke:ṛà:</i> forge	<i>maḡe:ṛi:</i>	<i>maḡe:ṛija:</i>	<i>maḡe:ṛa:</i> blacksmith

Some verbs, belonging mostly to grade Ø, have a dissyllabic short form with H-L tone pattern, that can be used only if followed by an object or a locative goal. Examples:

TABLE 12. SHORT AGENT NOUNS

<i>maṭfi:</i>	<i>àma:nà:</i>	treacherous person (lit. eater trust)
<i>mabi:</i>	<i>saṛki:</i>	follower of the Emir
<i>mazò:</i>	<i>gaṛi:</i>	town-goer
<i>maḡe:</i>	<i>silimân</i>	cinema-goer

Place nouns

Place nouns formed with the H tone *ma-* prefix have two forms *-a:* (f.) and *-i:* (m.). Both have all-H tones. They designate a place associated with the activity of the verb they are derived from.

TABLE 13. PLACE NOUNS

Verb	Place Nouns
<i>aikàta:</i> perform	<i>mam'aikata:</i> factory
<i>bùbbugà</i> well up	<i>mabubbuga:</i> spring
<i>ḡe:mà:</i> tan	<i>maḡe:ma:</i> tannery
<i>fàka:</i> lie in wait for	<i>mafaka:</i> shelter

The plural of *-i:* place nouns, when it exists, is formed with the *-ai*^{BH} suffix, e.g. *màsàllà:ta:* (sg. *masalla:ṭfi:*) ‘mosque’. The plurals of *-a:* place nouns are more varied, e.g.: *mà'aikàtu:* (< *ma'aikata:* - *u:*)^{BH} ‘factory’; *màfàṛautai* (< *mafaṛauta:* - *ai*)^{BH} ‘hunting ground’; *maṭfijo:ji:* (< *maṭfija:* - *o:ṭfi:*)^H ‘small roadside eating place’. Some of these nouns use two or even all of these plural forms³⁶.

Instrument nouns

Instrument nouns with the same H tone *ma-* prefix are masculine with a *-i:* suffix and an all-H tone pattern. The plural is regular with an *-ai*^{BH} suffix. They designate an object associated with the verb they are derived from.

³⁶ PN:58.

TABLE 14. INSTRUMENT NOUNS

Verb	Instrument Nouns (sg./pl)
du:bà: examine	madu:bi: / màdù:bai mirror
ka:mà: catch	maka:mi: / màkà:mai weapon
kullè: lock	makulli: / màkùllai key
hu:tà: blow	mahu:tji: / màhù:tai fan

12.2 Ethnonyms

The term ethnonym refers to a set of nouns starting with **bà-** prefix denoting a person's place of origin, nationality, ethnicity, occupation or social group. Masculines have an **-e:**^{HL} suffix with tones spreading to the left up to the prefix, e.g. **Bàgumalè:** 'man from Gumel' (**Gumàl**); **Bàzamfaɾè:** 'man from Zamfara' (**Zàmɾà**). Some ethnonyms have different final vowels, e.g. **Bàkanò:** 'man from Kano'; **bàdu:kù:** 'leather worker'.

The feminine is formed by adding **-a:** to the masculine, without replacing the existing suffix. The realization follows the rules **-è:+a:** > **-ija:** and **-ò:+a:** > **-ùwa:**, e.g. **Bàgumalè:** (m.) / **Bàgumalija:** (f.) 'a man / woman from Gumel'; **Bàkanò:** (m.) / **Bàkanùwa:** (f.) 'a man / woman from Kano'. The plural is formed by adding **-awa:** to the lexical base, without the **ba-** prefix, e.g. **Bàgumalè:** (m.) / **Gumala:wa:** (pl.) 'man / people from Gumel'.

13 Personal Pronouns

Hausa personal pronouns show different forms according to their syntactic function. Gender is distinguished in the second and third persons singular. The fourth, indefinite person, which appears among the subject pronouns, is absent from the other paradigms.

TABLE 15. PERSONAL PRONOUNS

	IDP	OBJ	BEN	POS
1s	ni:	ni	mini/mîn/mûn	-na / -ta
2s.m.	kai	ka	makà/ma:	-kà
2s.f.	ke:	ki	miki	-kì
3s.	ji:	ji	masà	-sà
3f.	ita	ta	matà	-tà
1p.	mu:	mu	manà	-mù
2p.	ku:	ku	mukù	-kù
3p.	su:	su	musù	-sù

The **Independent pronouns** (PRO.IDP) appear typically as topic, focus, predicate or subject of non-verbal sentences, complement of basic prepositions, etc.

Ex 49. **kai**_[vocative] **mazàunin ina: nè:** //

kai **ma-** **zaun-** **-i:VHLH** **-n** **ina:** **ne:** //

2.SG.M AGT- stay -AGT -POSL where COP1.NFOC //

You, where do you live? ([HAU BC CONV 01 SPI 002](#))

Ex 50. **ita ma:**_[topic] **tanà: zàune à nân [...]** //

ita **ma:** **tanà:** **zàune** **à** **nân** /

3SG.F even 3SG.F.CONT.NFOC staying at PROX /

As for her, does she live here [...] ? ([HAU BC CONV 01 SPI 007](#))

Ex 51. **kun** **dadè:** **tà:ɾe** **dà** **ita** **kè:** **nan** //

2.PL.PFV LAST TOGETHER WITH 3SG.F COP1.FOC ANAPH //

You had been staying with her for a long time. ([HAU BC CONV 01 SPI 034](#))

The **Direct Object pronoun** (PRO.OBJ) is the pronoun directly following a verb. Its tone is variable³⁷:

Ex 52. [...] *ja* *bijo:* *mù* //
 3SG.M.PFV.FOC follow.DIR 1PL //
 [...] he followed us. (HAU BC CONV 01 SP2 320)

Ex 53. *sei* *akà* *tsarè:* *mu* [...] //
 then 4.PFV.FOC block 1PL
 then they blocked us [...] (HAU BC NARR 03 06)

The **Benefactive** (PRO.BEN) or **Indirect Object** appears before the Direct Object (PRO.OBJ)³⁸. A nominal Benefactive is marked by the particle *wà* (ZR & WH *mà*) suffixed to the long-vowel finite form of the verb³⁹. In the Continuous, the nominalized form of the verb is replaced by a corresponding finite form.

Ex 54. [...] *tà* *rabà:* *mà* *màkàràntu:* /
 3SG.F.SBJV share BEN school.PL /
 [...] she would distribute [them] to the schools (HAU BC CONV 01 SP2 038)

The pronominal Benefactive belongs to a specific paradigm merging the *mà* particle with person and number marking.

Ex 55. *wandà* *akè:* *tfè:* *mâi* *mà'a:zù* //
 who 4.CONT.FOC say 3SG.BEN Ma'azu //
 The one they call Ma'azu. (lit. 'the one they say to him M.')

The **Possessive Pronoun** indicates possession. It is suffixed to the possessed object through the Possessive Link (POSL) *-n/-r*. Unlike the other persons, for the 1st person, the POSL is attached to the pronoun which takes a H tone. The final *-a* is long, except in sentence-final position where it is short, e.g. *mo:tà:ta:* 'my car': *An sa:tfè mo:tà:ta* 'They stole my car' vs. *Mo:tà:ta: ta:ba:tfi* 'My car has broken down' The word *kâi* 'head' with a possessive pronoun suffix, is used to form the reflexive: *mun tfù:tfi kânmu* 'we've wronged ourselves' (*kânmu* 'ourselves' < *kâi -n -mù*, head- POSL-1PL.PNG.POS). Suffixed to the free POSL, the possessive PNGs form the Independent Possessive Pronouns. The free POSL agrees with the gender of the thing possessed:

TABLE 16. INDEPENDENT POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

	M.& PL.	F.
1s.	<i>nà:wa</i>	<i>tà:wa</i>
2ms.	<i>na:kà</i>	<i>ta:kà</i>
2fs.	<i>na:kì</i>	<i>ta:kì</i>
3ms.	<i>na:sà</i>	<i>ta:sà</i>
3fs.	<i>na:tà</i>	<i>ta:tà</i>
1p.	<i>na:mù</i>	<i>ta:mù</i>
2p.	<i>na:kù</i>	<i>ta:kù</i>
3p.	<i>na:sù</i>	<i>ta:sù</i>

³⁷ Newman (2000:478 ff.) distinguishes two sets of Direct Object pronouns, both with CV form: (a) a set of weak clitic pronouns whose tone varies according to the class of the verb they cliticize to; (b) a set of strong non-clitic pronouns with inherent H tone.

³⁸ A pronominal Direct Object, when separated from the verb by a Benefactive, takes the form of an Independent Pronoun.

³⁹ This particle is written as a separate word in standard Hausa orthography, so as to distinguish it from the *-wa:* nominalizer forming verbal nouns.

14 Verbs and Verb Phrases

14.1 Verb grades

TABLE 17. VERB CLASSES

	/___Ø	/___PRO.OBJ	/___N	/___PRO.BEN
Grade Ø	-i: H -a:/-o: H	-i: H -a:/-o: H	-i: H -a:/-o: H	-i: H -a:/-o: H
Grade 1	-a: H-L-(H)	-a: H-L-(H)	-a H-L-(L)	-a: H-L-(H)
Grade 2	-a: L-H-(L)	-e: L-H-	-i L-H	(pds)
Grade 3	-a L-H-(L)			(pds)
Grade 3a	-a H			(pds)
Grade 3b	-i/-u/-a H-L			(pds)
Grade 4	-e: H-L(H) -nje: H-L-(H)	-e: H-L(H) -nje: H-L-(H)	-e H-L(L) -e: H-L-(H) -nje H-L-(L) -nje: H-L-(H)	-e: H-L(H) -nje: H-L-(H)
Grade 5	-ar H	-ar H [dà] H -fe: H -Ø [dà] H	-ar [dà] H -Ø [dà] H	-ar [dà] H
Grade 5d	-da: H-L	-da: H-L	-da H-L	-da: H-L
Grade 6	-o: H	-o: H	-o: H	-o: H
Grade 7	-u L-H			(pds)

Verb classes, called verb grades in Hausaist tradition since Parsons (1960), are morpho-syntactic classes determined by their morphology, tone pattern, and distribution. The nature of the object following the verb influences its form and determines the various classes: (i) zero object (Ø); (ii) pronominal object (PRO.OBJ); (iii) nominal object (N); benefactive pronominal object (PRO.BEN). Depending on their tone pattern and their suffix (mostly of the form -V or -CV, with the one -VC exception, **-ar**), seven verb grades were established by Parsons (*op.cit.*). To these, Newman added a grade Ø and introduced 3 subclasses: grades 3a and b, and grade 5d. These grades are subdivided into primary grades (Ø to 3, including 3a and 3b) and secondary grades which are derived from the others. (Table 17) above is a summary of Newman's presentation.

Primary Grades

Grade Ø consists of basic H-tone monosyllabic verbs ending in /i/, e.g. **ɸi** 'eat' or /a:/, e.g. **ɸa:** 'pull', plus a small group of H-tone **CiCa:** verbs, e.g. **kiɸa:** 'call'.

Grade 1 contains basic **-a/a:** verbs, e.g. **daɸa:** 'cook', both transitive and intransitive.

Grade 2 comprises only basic transitive verbs, e.g. **sàja:** 'buy' (**sàji** /___N and **sàje:** /___PRO.OBJ).

Before [Benefactive], grade 2 verbs, like those of grades 3 and 7, add the H-tone inflectional pds -aC)^H, e.g. sun ne:mam masà aiki: 'They sought work for him' (gr2+pds); cf. sun nè:mi aiki: 'they sought work' (gr2/___N). (PN:629)

Grade 3 is exclusively intransitive and contains basic **-a** final verbs, e.g. **fiɸa** 'go out'. **Grade 3a** is likewise made up of disyllabic intransitive verbs with **-a** final vowel, but with H-H tone and a heavy initial syllable, e.g. **kaɸa** 'migrate'. **Grade 3b** consists of a few H-L 2-syllable intransitive verbs with final **-i**, **-u**, and **-a**, e.g. **guɸu** 'run'.

Secondary grades

Grade 4, with a 'totality/finality' meaning, contains both transitive and intransitive verbs. It indicates and action totally done or affecting all the objects, e.g. **sàje:** 'buy up'. Used with a dative object, it can have a malefactive/deprivative sense, e.g. **kwa:ɸè:** 'take from'. The variant with /nje:/ is limited to a few verbs derived from monosyllabic grade Ø verbs, e.g. **jànje:** 'drink up'.

Grade 5 is called ‘efferential’ by Newman, who characterizes it as transitive grade indicating action directed away from the speaker, e.g. **zubar** ‘pour out’. However as it serves mainly to transitivize inherently intransitive verbs, e.g. **fitar** ‘take out’ (cf. **fità** (V3) ‘go out’), we will continue to call it ‘causative’, glossed CAUS in the corpus. Transitivity is expressed via the use of the oblique marker **dà** followed by the independent form of the pronoun, e.g. **ja: zubar dà gijà:** ‘He poured out the beer’, **ja sayar dà ita** ‘He sold it’. The pre-nominal form with **-je:** is an alternative to the **dà** form, e.g. **na: gajfe: sù = na: gajar dà su:** ‘I greeted them’. Some grade 5 verbs have a short suffixless form when followed by a direct object, e.g. **ja: zub dà ita = ja: zubar dà ita** ‘he poured it out’. **Grade 5b** is a dialectal form with the marker **dà** fused to the verb, and followed by a direct object pronoun, e.g. **ja: zubdà: ta.**

Grade 6 (‘allative’, glossed ALL), called ‘ventive’ by Newman, indicates action in the direction of, or for the benefit of the speaker, e.g. **sajo:** ‘buy and bring back’.

Grade 7 (‘passive’, glossed PASS), is called ‘sustentative’ by Newman. It indicates an agentless passive, middle voice action well done, or the potentiality of sustaining the action, e.g. **dàfu** ‘well cooked’, **tà:ru** ‘meet’.

All secondary grades have nominalized forms with the suffix **-lwa:**.

14.2 Imperatives

TABLE 18. GRADE 1 & 2 IMPERATIVES

	/__Ø	/__PRO.obj	/__N	/__PRO.BEN
Gr1	-a: L-H kà:ma:! Catch (X)!	-a: L-H kà:ma: su! Catch them!	-a L-L kà:mà bàra:wò:! Catch the thief!	-a: L-H kà:ma: mini bàra:wò:! Catch the thief for me!
Gr2	-i L-H tàimàki! Help (X)!	-e: L tàimàkè: mu! Help us!	-i L-H tàimàki jâ:ra! Help the children!	-aC L-H tàjam mini dà fi:! Give it back to me!

Commands are expressed in Hausa both by the Subjunctive and the Imperative. The Imperative is insensitive to gender and number and is restricted to the second person singular. The other persons and negative commands use the Subjunctive.

The Imperative is the only TAM which is directly expressed on the verb, through a specific tone pattern (usually L-H) which overrides the contextual tone pattern. This specific tone pattern varies according to the verb class. One example of such variation is that of the grade 2 imperative. See (Table 18) for the difference between grade 1 and grade 2 Imperatives⁴⁰.

14.3 Auxiliaries

We call auxiliary verbs⁴¹ those Hausa verbs that are followed by an embedded nonfinite VP whose subject is identical to that of the auxiliary. The embedded VP is an Infinitive Phrase (IP)⁴², a NV, NV Phrase or an action noun.

Ex 56. **kun** **ka:ra** **jî:** **-n** **wani** **no:ma:** /
2.PL.PFV continue doing -POSL some.M farming /
[..] did you go on cultivating another crop [... ?] (HAU_BC CONV 01 SP1 122)

When the embedded VP functions as direct object of the auxiliary verb, the result is a completive subordinate clause as in (55). Auxiliary verbs fall into two semantic categories:

- 1) **modal auxiliaries** specifying the subjective or objective modality of the process without reference to its temporality;

⁴⁰ For more variations, especially on grade Ø Imperatives, see Newman (2000:262-9).

⁴¹ Newman (PN:64-70) calls these verbs “Aspectual verbs”.

⁴² Claude Gouffé (1978) calls this form the “Forme Verbale Libre”, ‘free verb form’.

- 2) **aspectual auxiliaries** specifying the temporal references of the process, e.g. inceptive, durative, repetitive, etc.

Modal auxiliaries

Intersubjective: (will, causation, permission, acceptance, etc.), e.g. **so:** ‘want’, **sâ:** ‘cause’, **baɾi:** ‘allow’, **jàrdà** ‘agree’, **ki** ‘forbid’, **hanà:** ‘prevent’.

Epistemic: **ijà:** ‘can’, **rasà:**, **ka:sà:**, **gazà:** ‘cannot’, **fàskaɾà** ‘be difficult to...’

Deontic: **fàntfàntà**, **da:fè:**, **kàma:tà** ‘be proper’, **kjàutu** ‘be better’.

Appreciative: **fi** ‘exceed’, **fajè:**, **fikà:** ‘be too much’.

Aspectual auxiliaries

ka:ɾà, **dadà:** ‘increase’, **ka:ɾà:**, **sa:kè:** ‘repeat’, **ɾikà:**, **do:ɾà:**, **dìngà:**, **ji ta** ‘continue to’, **dainà:** ‘stop’, **ka:rè:**, **gamà:** ‘finish’, **baɾi:**, **fasà:** ‘abandon’, **tabà:** ‘have experienced’, **ɾiga:** / **ɾiga:**, **ɾiga:jà:** ‘have done before’, **fa:ɾà:**, **so:mà:**, **tà:sa:** / **ta:fi** / **ta:sam mà**, **ji ta** ‘begin to’⁴³; **kusa:** ‘have almost...’.

15 Adverbs and Prepositional phrases

Adverbs and adverbial phrases (of time, place, manner, etc.) have several functions in Hausa:

1. predicate of nonverbal sentences, e.g. **da:ki:na: janà: dab dà na:tà** ‘my room is right next to her’, **fà:dà:wa: sunà zàune kusa dà saɾki:** ‘the councillors are seated close to the chief’.
2. locative goal of motion verbs, e.g. **mù tàfi fân** ‘let’s go there!’
3. modifier in N- POSL ADV constructions, e.g. **fù:gàban dà:zu** ‘the leaders of the movement’ (lit. leaders of just now); **ki:fin-zu:fi** ‘ambition’ (lit. jealousy of in the heart)
4. predicate modifier appearing at the end of the VP, e.g. **inà: sòntà ainùn.** ‘I love her very much.’; **tanà: aiki: sànnu sànnu.** ‘She is working very slowly.’

NB: Adverbs and adverbial phrases are prone to fronting due to framing (52) or focus (53).

Ex 57. **lo:kàfji: -nì dà suká zo: / hakà sun zo:**
time -DEF REL 3PL.PFV.FOC come / like_this 3PL.PFV.NFOC come
hakà sunà: ba:jar dà mutàne: tsò:ɾo: //
like_this 3PL.CONT.NFOC give with person fear //
[When they arrived]_{FRAME}, [like that]_{FRAME} they arrived, [like that]_{FRAME} they frightened people.
([HAU_BC_CONV_01_SP2_151-2](#))

Ex 58. **ta nan nè: akà sa:mo: basa:wa //]**
via ANAPH COP1.NFOC 4.PFV.FOC get.DIR Basawa //]
[Is that where]_{FOCUS} the Basawa were found? ([HAU_BC_CONV_01_SPI_174](#))

15.1 Basic adverbs

Basic space adverbs. **da:ma** ‘right-hand side’, **hagu** = hagu ‘left’, **aɾè:wa:** ‘north’, **kudu** ‘south’, **gabàs** ‘east’, **yamma** ‘west’, **kusa** ‘nearby’. The interrogative spatial adverb is **ina:** ‘where?’; the universal quantifier is **ko:ina:** ‘everywhere, wherever’.

Basic time adverbs. The inventory of basic adverbs (see Table 19 below) is quite rich, with many degrees referring to days and years but not to weeks or months.

⁴³ **ji ta** has a continuous meaning (‘keep doing’) with a Continuous TAM, and an inceptive meaning (‘start doing’) when used in the Perfect.

TABLE 19. BASIC TIME ADVERBS

past	dâ: 'formerly'	je:kaɾàn-ɕijà wàtʃʃan 'three days ago'	
	tùni 'long ago'	je:kaɾàn-ɕijà 'two days ago'	bà:ra wàtʃʃan 'two years ago'
	dâ:zu 'not long ago, just now'	ɕijà 'yesterday'	bà:ra 'last year'
present	jànzù 'now'	yâu 'today'	bana 'this year'
future	ʃân 'then, then later'	gò:be 'tomorrow'	bàdī 'next year'
	ʃan 'then later'	ɕi:bi 'two days from now'	bàdī wàtʃʃan 'two years from now'
		ga:tà 'three days from now'	
		ʃittà 'four days from now'	
		je:kaɾàn-ʃittà 'five days from now'	

NB: The adverb **dâ:** 'formerly' combined with **ma:** 'even' forms the phrase **dâ: ma:** which denotes a known, confirmed fact, and translates as 'of course', 'in fact', 'precisely'.

There are other adverbs relative to the time locus of the utterance, e.g. **kà:fè:gàrì:**, **wàfè:gàrì:** 'the following day'⁴⁴, **kullum**, **dàdai**, **tùtur** 'always'.

The interrogative temporal adverb (ADV.Q) is **jàufè**, **jàufe:** 'when?'; the universal quantifier is **ko:jàufè**, **ko:jàufe:** 'any time, whenever'.

Deictics have both a spatial and temporal meaning: **nân** 'here, now'; **nan** 'there near you, then'; **ʃân** 'there (not near you)'; **ʃan** 'there (remote), then (later)'.

Manner adverbs. We will name but a few manner adverbs, e.g. **ainùn** 'very much'; **daidai** 'exactly'; **duk**⁴⁵ 'entirely'; **hakà** = **hakàn** 'thus'; **kawài** 'only, merely', etc.

Other adverbs. The adverb **ko:** modifies NP, VP and adverbials (both PP and AP⁴⁶). Here is an example modifying a PP: **ko: dà wuka: bà zâi kafè: ʃi ba** 'Even with a knife, he would not be able to kill it.' **dan/yar/yan** 'little' is an adjective modifier, and its invariable form **dan** acts as an adverbial predicate modifier, e.g.

Ex 59. **à sajo: / à sa:mù à dan ʃi àbinʃi /**
 SBJV.4 sell.DIR / SBJV.4 get SBJV.4 DIM eat food /
 We would go and sell [doughnuts] to get [money] and eat a little. ([HAU BC CONV 01 SP2 285-7](#))

15.2 Adverb derivation

Denominal adverbs

Many adverbs are derived from body-part nouns and nouns of place and time through one or more of the following processes: (i) shortening the final vowel (**à kafà** 'on foot' < **kafà:** 'foot, leg'); (ii) dropping the feminine gender suffix (**à zu:ʃi** 'in the heart' < **zu:ʃija:** 'heart'); (iii) change of tone to HH; (iv) addition of a tone-integrating suffix **-a**^{HL} (**bakà dà hanʃi** 'tooth and nail, lit. at mouth and at nose' < **bà:ki:** 'mouth'; **hanʃi:** 'nose').

⁴⁴ There is no adverb corresponding to 'the previous day'. Instead, the expression **anà: gò:be** + FUT (lit. they were tomorrow...), e.g. **anà: gò:be za: sù tà:ʃi...** 'the day before their departure...' (lit. they were tomorrow they will leave).

⁴⁵ Cf. the related prenominal (**duk**) and post-nominal (**dukà**) specifiers.

⁴⁶ We have seen how this has been lexicalized for the formation of universal quantifiers through the structure **ko:** + Question word.

Deverbal statives

Statives are a subclass of adverbs derived from verbs by means of a tone-integrating suffix *-e*^{LH}, e.g. *mutù* ‘die’ > *màŋfe* ‘dead’; *zaunà*: ‘sit’ > *zàune* ‘seated’:

Ex 60. *sunà:* *nan* *à* *zàune* *nè:* *à* *wánnan* *gàri:* *na* *pallà:dân* //
 3PL.CONT.NFOC ANAPH at seated COP1.NFOC at PROX city POSL Palladan //
 They live there (*lit.* they are seated there) in the city of Palladan. ([HAU_BC_CONV_01_SP2_231](#))

Ex 61. *kun* *dadè:* *tà:re* *dà* *ita* *kè:* *nan* //
 2.PL.PFV last together with 3SG.F COP1.FOC ANAPH //
 You stayed a long time together with her, you did. ([HAU_BC_CONV_01_SP1_034](#))

15.3 Reduplication

Reduplication of adverbs is very common with three different meanings: (1) intensive; (2) attenuative; (3) distributive.

Intensive reduplication: *ŋan* ‘there’ / *ŋan ŋan* ‘far, far away’; *kusa* ‘close’ / *kusa kusa* = *kurkusa* ‘very close’; *maza* ‘quickly’ / *maza maza* = *marmaza* ‘very quickly’.

Attenuative reduplication⁴⁷: mainly concerned are denominal locative adverbs, e.g. *ba:ja* ‘behind’ / *ba:ja ba:ja* ‘a bit behind’; *samà* ‘above’ / *samà samà* ‘a bit above’.

Distributive reduplication: The repetition of nouns creates adverbs with a distributive meaning, e.g. *ma:kò*: (= *sa:ti:*) ‘week’ / *ma:kò: ma:kò:* (= *sa:ti: sa: ti:*) ‘weekly’; *gida*: ‘house’ / *gida: gida:* ‘from house to house’.

15.4 Prepositional Phrases

Prepositional phrases (PP) consist of a preposition plus an NP or an adverb, e.g. *dà wuka*: ‘with a knife’, *dàgà nân* ‘from here’. PPs have the same functions as adverbs for modifying predicates. Like adverbs, they have (1) temporal, (2) locative, (3) manner, and (4) instrumental meanings.

- Time PPs⁴⁸ e.g. *kà:fin* ‘before’; *ba:jan* ‘after’.

Ex 62. *ba:jan* *ràsuwantà* *dai* /
 after death.POSL.3SG.F indeed /
 Well, after her death, [...] ([HAU_BC_CONV_01_SP1_038](#))

- Place PPs, e.g. *gàba dà* ‘in front of’; *à* ‘at’

Ex 63. *ka:* *dadè:* *à* *wuřintà* *ko:* *kùwa* ##
 2SG.M.PFV.NFOC last at place.POSL.3SG.F or as_for ##
 did you stay long at her place or rather... ([HAU_BC_CONV_01_SP1_011](#))

Manner PPs use the preposition *dà* with a noun of quality, e.g. *dà hankàli*: ‘gently’; *dà karfi*: ‘strongly’, *dà jawà*: ‘many’.

Ex 64. *àkwai* *ra:fuffukà:* *ne:* *dà* *jawà:* [...] *[...]*
 COP3 river.PL COP1.NFOC with quantity [...] *[...]*
 Are there many rivers [...] ? ([HAU_BC_CONV_01_SP1_192](#))

- Instrument PPs use the preposition *dà* with concrete nouns, e.g. *sun dauřè: ji dà igija*: ‘they tied him with a rope’.

⁴⁷ See the same phenomenon with adjectives, § 16.3 Reduplicated adjectives, p. 39.

⁴⁸ Cf. § 17, p. 39 for a glossary of prepositions.

16 Adjectives

Adjectives share their morphology with nouns, and some can even function as nouns, e.g. **tso:ho:** ‘old’ (adj.) and ‘old man’ (n.). However, they have some specific properties that distinguish them from nouns. These are: (i) morphology: there are adjectives derived from nouns of quality that have a specific morphology and cannot function as nouns, e.g. **zàzza:fa:** ‘very hot’ (< **za:fi:** ‘heat’); (ii) syntax: they function mainly as nominal modifiers or predicates; (iii) their gender and number features are assigned by the noun they qualify and are not lexical properties.

16.1 Syntax

Adjectives appear in three different constructions: (i) predicative; (ii) pre-nominal attributive; (iii) post-nominal attributive. Let us illustrate these three constructions with a simple adjective, **faʃi:** (m.); **faʃa:** (f.); **faʃà:ʃe:** (pl.) ‘white’.

The attributive function

The pre-nominal attributive structure is <Adj- POSL N>. The post-nominal attributive function uses the structure <N Adj> without POSL:

TABLE 20. ATTRIBUTIVE ADJECTIVES

	Pre-nominal	Post-nominal	
do:ki: (m.) horse	faʃi-n do:ki: (white-POSL horse)	do:ki: faʃi: (horse white)	white horse
mo:tà: (f.) car	faʃa-r mo:tà: (white-POSL car)	motà: faʃa: (car white)	white car
hu:lunà: (pl.) caps	faʃà:ʃe-n hu:lunà: (white-POSL caps)	hu:lunà: faʃà:ʃe: (caps white)	white caps

The predicative function

The predicative function uses

- the non-aspectual Continuous

Ex 65. **lo:kàʃʃin ni: inà: ɗan kàʃami: //**
time.DEF 1SG.IDPT 1SG.CONT.NFOC DIM small //
At that time I was young. ([HAU_BC_CONV_01_SP2_144](#))

- the copula **ne:/ʃe:/ne:** (COP2) with the structure < (X) Y COP2 > where Y is the adjective, e.g. (ex 65):

Ex 66. **do:ki-n-sà faʃi: nè:** his horse is white
horse- POSL.M-him white.M COP.M
ʃi:ga-r-sà faʃa: ʃe: his caftan (f.) is white
caftan- POSL.F-him white.F COP.F
mo:to:ʃi-n-sù faʃà:ʃe: nè: their cars are white (BC)
cars-POSL.PL-them white.PL COP.PL

Comparison

Comparison is expressed through the verb **fi** ‘exceed’ and the structure < **X fi Y adj** >, e.g. **Sulè ja: fi Mu:sa: tsawo:** ‘Sule is taller than Musa’ (lit. Sule exceeds Musa (in) height). One of the terms of comparison may be elliptical:

Ex 67. **ge:ɾón nàn ja: fi ingantfi: //**
 millet -DEF ANAPH 3SG.M.PFV.NFOC exceed value //
 The millet is more profitable. ([HAU BC CONV 04 SP1 0009](#))

Ex 68. **illà: -n ta: fi jawà: //**
 disadvantage-DEF 3SG.F.PFV.NFOC exceed quantity //
 It has more disadvantages. (*lit.* the disadvantage exceeds in quantity)
 ([HAU BC CONV 04 SP1 955](#))

Superlatives are expressed through the post-nominal modifier *mafi*⁴⁹ + adj, e.g. **ja:ɾò: mafi: kaɾfi:** ‘the strongest boy’ (*lit.* boy exceeder (in) strength).

16.2 Basic adjectives

Table 21 below lists the 19 basic, underived “true” adjectives.

TABLE 21. BASIC ADJECTIVES

baki:, baka:, bakà:ke:	black
bàbba, bàbba, mánja:	big
do:go:, do:guwa:, do:gwà:je:	long
ɗanje:, ɗanja:, ɗànju:	raw, fresh, green
fari:, fara:, farà:re:	white
gàje:re:, gàje:ra: (=gàje:rija: =gàje:rùwa:), gājè:ru:	short
huntu:, huntuwa:, huntà:je:	naked
ja:, ja:, ja:jà:je:	red
ko:rè:, ko:rija:, ko:rà:je:	green, unripe
kùma:ma:, kùma:ma:, kùmà:mai	weak
ka:tò:, ka:tùwa:, kàtta:	huge
kànkane:, kànkane:wa:, kana:nà:	small
kàrami:, kàrama:, kana:nà:	small
kàza:mi:, kàza:ma:, kàzà:mai	dirty
ku:lumi:, ku:luma:, ku:lumà:je:	stingy
mu:gù:, mu:guwa: (=mu:gunjà:), mijà:gu: (=mu:gà:je:)	evil
rà:wajà:, rà:wajà:, rà:wà:ju:	yellow
sa:bo:, sa:buwa:, sà:bàbbi:	new
shu:ɗi:, shu:ɗija:, shùɗɗa:	indigo blue

Noun/adjectives. A certain number of words are used both as adjectives and as nouns.

TABLE 22. NOUN/ADJECTIVES

bà:ko:, bà:kuwa:, bà:ki:	stranger, host
be:be:, be:bija:, be:bà:je:	dumb
bàra:wò:, bàraunija:, bàrà:ji:	robber
kurma:, kurma:, kurà:me:	deaf

These can have a nominal function, e.g. in (Ex 68) where **tsò:fàffi:** is the noun ‘old people’:

Ex 69. **ĩɾin na tsò:fàffi: //**
 type.DEF POSL old.PL //
 like those of old people. ([HAU BC CONV 01 SP2 596](#))

whereas in (Ex 69) the predicative adjective **tsò:fò:fin** ‘old’ modifies the noun **tùma:tir** ‘tomato’:

Ex 70. **tsò:fò:fin tùma:tir**
 old.PL -POSL tomatoes
 old tomatoes ([HAU BC CONV 01 SP2 615](#))

⁴⁹ *mafi:* is a short agent noun derived from *fi* ‘exceed’.

16.3 Derived adjectives

Agentive adjectives

We saw in § 12.1, p. 28 how agent nouns are derived from verbs with a *ma- ... -i-* affix and a H-(L)-L-H tone pattern, e.g. *manò:mi:* (m.) ‘farmer’ (< *no:m-* ‘to farm’). Many of those derived from intransitive verbs can also function as adjectives, e.g. *matsijà:tfi:* (adj.) ‘poor, destitute’, *mahàukàtfi:* (adj.) ‘mad’. Example: *wani mahàukàtfin dire:bà* ‘a mad driver’; *mahàukàtan karnukà* ‘mad dogs’.

Past Participles

Adjectival past participles are produced from verbs by means of the tone-integrating suffix *-aCCe:*^{LHH} where CC stands for a geminated copy of the preceding consonant. The feminine counterpart has an *-iya:* suffix, and the plural is *-u:*^{LH}, e.g. *dàfaffe:* / *dàfaffiya:* / *dàfàffu:* ‘cooked’ (< *dafà:* ‘cook’); *rùbùtafffe:* / *rùbùtafffiya:* / *rùbùtattu:* ‘written’ (< *rubù:ta:* ‘write’).

Adjectives of Sensory Quality

Intensive trisyllabic adjectives are derived from a set of nouns called Abstract Nouns of Sensory Quality by Parsons (1955). For example, the noun *za:fi:* ‘heat’ has the adjectival derivate *zàzza:fa:* ‘very hot’. The singular is formed with a reduplicative prefix (CVC-)^L plus a suffix *-a:*^L. The plural has an *-a:Ca:*^{LH} suffix added to the base without reduplication, e.g. *fàrfa:da: = fàffa:da: / fadà:da:* ‘very broad, wide’ (< *fa:di:* ‘width’); *kàkkaifa:* / *kaifà:fa:* ‘very sharp’ (< *kaifi:* ‘sharpness’); *mùmmu:na:* / *mu:nà:na:* ‘evil, ugly’ (< *mu:ni:* ‘ugliness’).

Reduplicated adjectives

A highly productive derivation produces adjectives by full reduplication of common nouns with shortening of the original final vowel. The semantic result is an adjective meaning ‘X-like’ where X stands for the original noun, e.g. *gijiri:* ‘salt’ > *gijiri-gijiri* ‘salty’. Other examples are: *gà:ri-gà:ri* ‘powdery’ (< *gà:ri:* ‘flour’); *ruwa-ruwa* ‘watery’ (< *ruwa:* ‘water’).

A comparable morphological process derives an adjective with an attenuative meaning from another adjective, e.g. *baki:* ‘black’, (*ɗan*) *baki:-baki:* ‘faded black’; *fa:ri:* ‘white’, (*ɗan*) *fa:ri-fa:ri* ‘off-white’; *fu:di:* ‘dark blue’, *fu:di-fu:di* ‘light blue’; *do:go:* ‘tall’, (*ɗan*) *do:go-do:go* ‘medium height’; *jalò:* ‘yellow’, *jalò-jalò* ‘yellowish’; *ɗa:* ‘red’, *ɗa:ɗa-ɗa:ɗa* ‘reddish’.

17 Prepositions

Prepositions are the head of Prepositional phrases (cf. §15 above). They fall into three categories (1) basic prepositions; (2) compound prepositions; (3) possessive prepositions.

17.1 Basic prepositions

The inventory of basic Hausa prepositions is as follows: *à* ‘at, in, on’; *dà* ‘with’; *dàgà* ‘from’; *bisà* ‘on, about’; *fà:ffe:* ‘except’; *gà* / *gàre:* ‘by, in, near, in connection with, in relation to’; *har* ‘up to, until’; *hàtta:* ‘including’; *ija:* ‘as far as’; *illa:* ‘except’; *kà:fin* (= *kà:fin*) ‘before’; *sabò:dà* ‘because of, on account of’; *sai* ‘except, until’; *ta* ‘via, by means of, by way of’; *tun* ‘since’; *wàr* ‘like’; *jà:* (= *i*) ‘like, among’; *zuwà:* ‘to’⁵⁰.

Many of these basic prepositions also function as conjunctions. Except for *gà* which takes the form *gàre:* when followed by a direct object pronoun, e.g. *gàre: tà* ‘by her’, all basic prepositions take independent pronouns as complements, e.g. *sabò: dà ita* ‘because of her’.

⁵⁰ Newman (2000:46)

17.2 Compound prepositions

These are made up of an adverb followed by the preposition *dà*, e.g. *ban dà* ‘apart from’; *duk dà* ‘despite’; *fije dà* ‘more than’; *gàme dà, tà:re dà* ‘together with’, etc.

17.3 Possessive prepositions

These prepositions are composed of an adverb or a noun bearing the short POS suffix *-n/-r/-t*. They are generally preceded by a basic preposition such as *à / dàgà / ta*, e.g. *a kân te:bùr* ‘on the table’. Here are a few examples: *bà:kin* ‘at the edge of, in exchange for’ (< *bà:ki* ‘mouth’); *tfikin* ‘inside’ (< *tfiki* (adv.) ‘inside’); *kân* ‘on top of’ (< *kâi* ‘head’); *ba:jan* ‘behind’ (< *ba:ja* ‘at the back’); *màimakon* ‘in exchange for’ (< *màimako* ‘replacement’). Possessive prepositions take possessive pronouns as complements, e.g. *kânsù* ‘on them’; *tfikintà* ‘on it’.

18 Universal Quantifiers

There exist two types of universals: (1) the global universal *duk/dukà*; (2) distributive universals based on the morpheme *ko:*.

18.1 The global universal *duk/dukà*

The global quantifier *duk/dukà* ‘all’ can occur as a modifier, a pronoun, or an adverb:

- Modifier

Ex 71. *duk abu:buwà: sun tfanzà: //*
all thing.PL 3PL.PFV.NFOC change //
All things have changed. (HAU BC CONV 04 SP1 0514)

- Pronoun

Ex 72. *duk na kâ-n wànnan nè: /*
all POSL HEAD-POSL -POSL ANAPH COP1.NFOC /
It's all because of that. (HAU BC CONV 03 SP2 062)

- Adverb

Ex 73. *duk in ja:rinjà: ta: tfika /*
all if girl 3SG.F.PFV.NFOC fill /
Whenever a girl is grown up, [...] (HAU BC CONV 04 SP1 1018)

18.2 The distributive universal *ko:*

The morpheme *ko:* combined with question words builds a class of polyfunctional morphemes with a common meaning of universal quantifiers. They can be Pro-Nouns (‘anyone, whoever; anything, whatever’), Pro-Modifiers (‘any, whichever’) or Pro-Adverbs (‘any way, however’, etc.). See Table 23 below for a complete list and the corresponding Question Words.

TABLE 23. DISTRIBUTIVE UNIVERSALS

Gloss	Universals	Question Words
everyone, whoever	<i>ko:wa:</i>	<i>wà:</i> ‘who?’
everything, whatever	<i>ko:me:</i>	<i>mè:</i> ‘what?’
everywhere, wherever	<i>ko:’ina:</i>	<i>ina:</i> ‘where?’
always, whenever	<i>ko:jàufe: = ko:jàufè</i>	<i>jàufe: = jàufè</i> ‘when?’
each, whichever one(s)	<i>ko:wànnè: (m.), ko:wàtfje: (f.),</i> <i>ko:wàdànnè: (pl.)</i>	<i>wànnè:, wàtfje:, wàdànnè:</i> ‘which one?’
every, whichever	<i>ko:wànè (m.), ko:wàtfè (f.),</i> <i>ko:wàdànnè (pl.)</i>	<i>wàlnèi</i> (m.), <i>wàtfè</i> (f.), <i>wàdànnè</i> (pl.) ‘which?’

however much/many	ko: nawà	nawà: ‘how much/many?’
in every, whatever way	ko:(ta)jà:jà:	jà:jà: ‘how?’

Ex 74. **bàsù** **ʔfi ko:me: ba** //
 NEG1A.3PL.PFV eat anything NEG1B //
 They hadn't eaten anything. ([HAU BC NARR 01 SP2 08](#))

Ex 75. **ko:wa: akà** **ʔê: jà** **ʔfi** //
 everyone 4.PFV.FOC say 3SG.M.SBJV eat //
 Everyone was told to eat. ([HAU BC NARR 02 SP1 096](#))

18.3 Universal subordination

Subordinate clauses can be introduced by both global and distributive universals:

Ex 76. **ko:me: kakè:** **fàɗa: [...]**
 anything 2SG.CONT.FOC saying [...]
Whatever you say [...] ([HAU BC CONV 04 SP1 0670](#))

Ex 77. **duk jandà kika** **ʃirjà:** //
 all how 2SG.F.PFV.FOC get_ready //
Whenever you are ready. ([HAU BC CONV 03 SP1 099](#))

19 Ideophones

Ideophones constitute a word class defined by semantic and phonological rather than syntactic properties. In other words, they are not a part of speech like nouns, verbs, or prepositions. They are “*descriptive of sound, colour, smell, manner, appearance, state, action or intensity... [that is, they are words that are] vivid vocal images or representations of visual, auditory and other sensory or mental experiences*”⁵¹. They are characterized by highly specific meaning and collocation, function primarily as adjectives and adverbs, and are associated with expressive pronunciation, i.e. extra forcefulness or loudness, often with an intonational break, indicated in the examples below by a minor intonational break (/) and an arrow (↑)⁵²:

Ex 78. **ta:** **ʔika / ↑dam** //
 3SG.PFV.NFOC fill / very_big //
 She had grown very big. ([HAU BC CONV 04 SP1 1005-6](#))

20 Complex sentences

20.1 Coordination

‘And’

The conjunction **dà** is used only to coordinate two NPs or two APs, and not to coordinate two clauses. A link between two clauses is rather expressed through simple juxtaposition, e.g. (Ex 78), sometimes reinforced by adverbial connectors, e.g. **kuma** ‘too’ when the connection is pragmatic or **sei (kuma)** or **ka:nà** ‘then’ for temporal succession. The connector **kuma** can appear either between the two conjoined clauses, e.g. (Ex 76) or between the subject pronouns and the verb of the second clause.

⁵¹ Cole (1955:370) quoted by Newman (2000:242)

⁵² For a complete phonological, semantic, syntactic and intonational characterization of ideophones, see PN:242-259.

Ex 79. *su: kò: sukà wufè: sukà tàfi rà:fi -n -sù //*
 3PL as_for 3PL.PFV.FOC pass_by 3PL.PFV.FOC go river -POSL -1PL.POS //
 As for them, they continued [and] went to their river. ([HAU BC NARR 01 SP1 096](#))

Ex 80. *fi: kè: fí: dà ní: / kuma jakè: tallàfa: mìn*
 3SG.M CONT.FOC feeding APPL 1SG.IDPT / too 3SG.M.CONT.FOC support 1SG.BEN
wadjen harkà: -n kàrà:tu: dà sauṛa: -n -sù //
 around affair -POSL education and remainder -POSL -3PL.POS //
 he is the one feeding me, [...] and he is the one supporting my education etc.
 ([HAU BC CONV 01 SP2 238-40](#))

In simple juxtaposition of clauses (parataxis), TAMs play a part in the interpretation of the connection between them:

- The use of the Subjunctive as a relay TAM creates a stronger connection between juxtaposed clauses.
- A succession of [-FOC] Perfectives will be interpreted as a mere enumeration. A succession of [+FOC] Perfectives will denote consecutive events, typical of a narration. A [+FOC] following a [-FOC] Perfective will indicate a consecutive action.
- A [+FOC] Perfective following a [-FOC] Continuous will indicate an event intruding into a background situation.
- A [-FOC] Continuous in the second sentence indicates concomitance.
- The relationships expressed by the aspectual system can be specified by adverbial coordinators, e.g. *sai* ‘then’.

‘Or’

Disjunctive coordination is expressed with *ko*: ‘or’, *ko: ... ko*: ‘either ... or’, combined optionally with the particles *kuma* ‘too’ or *ma*: ‘also, even’.

Ex 81. *tò: fi: wānnan dinkin dīn kukàn saidà: nè: /*
 well 3SG.M PROX edible_LEAVES DEF 2PL.HAB sell COP1.NFOC /
ko: kukàn / ba:jar fi nè: à gida: //
 or 2PL.HAB / give.CAUS 3SG.M COP1.NFOC at home //
 Well those leaves, did you sell them or did you... give it to the (people of the) house ?
 ([HAU BC CONV 01 SP1 021-3](#))

‘But’ and ‘however’

àmma: ‘but’ and *duk dà hakà*, ‘however’ conjoin two clauses while contrasting them.:

Ex 82. *ìdan ta:ki -n na gargaḡija: kè: nan /*
 if manure -DEF POSL old_times COP1.FOC ANAPH /
za:sù dāukè: akè: zubà: mafì //
 FUT.3PL take 4.CONT.FOC pour 3SG.M //
àmma: jànzū mukàn haḡà: dà na bàtu:rè: //
 but now 1PL.HAB join with POSL European //
 If... it were manure as in the old days, they would take it and spread it on, but now, we mix it with chemical fertilizers. ([HAU BC CONV 02 SP2 132-5](#))

20.2 Compleatives

Compleatives are clauses functioning as the direct object of: (i) a full verb; (ii) a nominal predicate; (iii) an impersonal verb; (iv) a non-verbal copular expression.

(i) Full verbs, e.g. **sô:** ‘want’:

Some verbs, (e.g. **sô:** ‘want’) take a direct complement phrase without a complementizer, Cf. (Ex 82) below. Predicates of saying, thought, etc., whether verbal or nominal, use the complementizer **wai**. The general complementizer is **tfê:wa:**, derived from the verbal noun of the verb **tfê:** ‘say’. Another complementizer is the particle **dà**.

Ex 83. **gà: fì ba:kà sô: à ta:fì /**
 COP4 3SG.M NEG5.2SG.M.CONT.NFOC wanting 4SBJV rise /
 Here you are, you don't want to leave [...] ([HAU BC CONV 04 SP2 886](#))

(ii) Verbal phrase

Ex 84. **na: sâ: râi wai zâi zo: /**
 1SG.PFV.NFOC put life COMP FUT.3SG.M come /
 I hope he will come. (*lit.* I have set mind that...) (BC)

Ex 85. **mun ji fa:ri: -n tfiki: dà kukà zo:**
 1PL.PFV.NFOC do white -POSL stomach with 2PL.CONT.FOC come
 We are happy (*lit.* did white belly) that you came. (BC)

(iii) Impersonal verbs, e.g. **kasàntfe:** ‘happen’:

Ex 86. **tò: jànzù ja kasàntfe: tfê:wa: jànzù /**
 well now 3SG.M.PFV.FOC become that_is now /
in kukà sà:mi wànnan kuđi:
 if 2PL.CONT.FOC get ANAPH money
kukàn sarrâfa: su nè: wadgen sajo: dabbo:bi: /
 2PL.HAB invest 3PL COP1.NFOC around sell.DIR cattle -PL /
 Well now it happens that now, if you get some money, you invest by buying animals.
 ([HAU BC CONV 02 SP1 033-4](#))

(iv) Copular constructions:

Ex 87. **wâuta: nè: gà Mu:sa: dà jà tfi ba:fì:**
 foolishness COP1 near Musa with 3S.SBJV consume credit
It was stupid for Musa to take a credit. (BC)

20.3 Subordination: Adverbial clauses

Subordination is introduced by the following conjunctions⁵³:

- **har** ‘as far as; up to, until, even, etc.’, denotes the continuation of an action until a qualitative degree is reached, entailing a change of state;
- **sai**, often implying or combined with negation, means ‘except, only, unless, etc.’ and denotes a progression towards a goal⁵⁴;
- **dà** ‘when, rather than’;
- **ba:yan (dà)** ‘after’;
- **dò:min (=don)** ‘because’ when followed by a Perfective; ‘so that’ when followed by a Subjunctive;
- **idan (=in)** ‘if’ (conditional)
- **dà:, in dà:** ‘if’ (hypothesis, contrary to fact)

⁵³ PN:134

⁵⁴ As with most conjunctions, **har** and **sai** can function as prepositions as well, e.g. **sai gò:be:** ‘bye bye’ (*lit.* until tomorrow); **an ji hanjà: dàgà Kanò: har Daura:** ‘they built a road from Kano to Daura’.

- *kà:fin* (= *kà:fin*, =*kà:mì n*, = *kà:min*) ‘before’
- *kàmar* (= *tàmkar*) ‘as if’
- *ko:* ‘even if’
- *ko: dà* ‘as soon as’
- *ko: dà (yake)* ‘although’
- *màimakon* ‘instead of’
- *muddin* ‘as long as’
- *sabò:dà* ‘because’
- *tàmkar* (= *kàmar*): ‘as if’
- *tun* ‘while’; ‘even before’ when followed by *kà:fin* ‘before’ or a negative clause;
- *tun dà* ‘since (temporal)’
- *tun (dà yake)* ‘since (factive)’

Here are but a few examples.

Ex 88. *sei akà ji ta du:kà -n -fi /*
 then 4.PFV.FOC do DUR beating -POSL -3SG.M.POS /

har akà ji mifi tji:wò: //
 until 4.PFV.FOC do 3SG.M wound //

Then they kept beating him until he was wounded. ([HAU BC NARR 03 46-7](#))

Ex 89. *ji: ita wānnan ga:nuwa: / an sa:mo: tà ne: /*
 3SG.M 3SG.F ANAPH rampart / 4.PFV.NFOC get.DIR 3SG.F COP1.NFOC /

dò:min dukà gāri -nì dà akà tji: makà àkwai ga:nuwa: /
 because all town -DEF REL 4.PFV.FOC say 2SG.M COP3 rampart /

Those city walls, we had them, because whenever they tell you about a town, there are city walls. ([HAU BC CONV 02 SP2 259-61](#))

Ex 90. *in dà: janà: nan ai za:sù zo: sù ko:jar //*
 if CTF 3SG.M.CONT.NFOC ANAPH indeed FUT.3PL come 3PL.SBJV learn.CAUS //
 If he had been there they would have come to teach. ([HAU BC CONV 03 SP2 017](#))

21 Negation

P. Newman (2000:357-365) identifies five types of negation:

TABLE 24. NEGATIVE MARKERS

NEG1a...NEGb	<i>bà:/bà ... ba</i>	All TAMs except the Continuous and Subjunctive
NEG2	<i>ba:</i>	Negative Continuous TAM
NEG3	<i>ba:bù / bâ:</i>	Existential; ‘have’ sentences, etc.
NEG4a... NEGb	<i>bà: ... ba</i>	Equateive (non-verbal) sentences, NPs, etc.
NEG5	<i>kadà / kâr</i>	Subjunctive

21.1 NEG1. All TAMs except the Continuous and Subjunctive⁵⁵

The discontinuous negation *bà:/bà ... ba* occurs with TAMs other than the Continuous and the Subjunctive. The first part of the morpheme (*bà:/bà*) occurs immediately before the TAM. The second part (*ba*) occurs at the end of the VP, after the core arguments of the verb, but before adjuncts. Short basic adverbs tend to be included within the syntactic scope of negation.

⁵⁵ Cf. TAMs and their meaning, Tables 1 to 8.

Ex 91.

bà
NEG1A

mù *san* *so:ɕà*

ba
NEGB

 //

We were not used to soldiers. (HAU BC CONV 01 SP2 155)

Ex 92.

bà
NEG1A

mù *ɕikà* *àmɕà:ni: dà* *fi:*

ba
NEGB

sò:sai //

We did not really use it. (HAU BC CONV 01 SP2 548)

In the perfective, the first and third¹ person markers of the subject pronouns contract with the **bà** of the negative marker, e.g. *bà ni* > *bân*; *bà ja* > *bài*.

The length of the vowel in the first part of the morpheme varies with dialects and idiolects. In SH, it is (1) always short in the perfective and the future; (2) usually short in the allative and the potential; (3) normally short but also long in the future; (4) normally long but also short in the habitual.

21.2 NEG2. Negative Continuous TAM

Like the subject pronouns of the Continuous, the negative marker has a H tone and long **-a:**. It negates locatives and statives, as well as Continuous verbal sentences. Examples:

Ex 93.

ba:
NEG2

à: *jĩ* *-n* *ge:ro:* //

we don't do millet. (HAU BC CONV 01 SP2 389)

Ex 94. *kin* *sani:* *fi:* *dàjakè:*

bâi
NEG2.3SG.CONT

dà *haki:* /

2SG.F.PFV.NFOC know 3SG.M since with grass /

You know, as he did not have any grass [...] (HAU BC CONV 03 SP1 130)

21.3 NEG3. Existential and “have” sentences

bâ: / **ba:bù** is the negative counterpart of **àkwai**. It negates existential sentences and “have” sentences:

Ex 95. **bâ:** *ginegine:* //

NEG3 building.PL //

There were no buildings. (HAU BC CONV 01 SP2 314)

21.4 NEG4. Non-verbal sentences and NPs

The disjunctive **bâ:** ... **ba** negative marker negates the copula **ne:/fe:/ne:** in all its uses as sentence copula and as focus marker. In both cases, the second part of the marker is inserted between the copula and the constituent it is attached to (93).

Ex 96. *ko:*

bâ:
NEG4A

hakà

ba
NEGB

 //

or like_this //

Isn't it true? (HAU BC CONV 02 SP1 031)

Ex 97. *ĩĩ* *-nì* *na* *gargaɕjja:* *-:::* /

type -DEF POSL old_times -LENGTH /

bà *zâi* *ji* **ba** / *tundà*

bâ:
NEG4A

àmpà:ni:

ba
NEGB

nè:

NEG1A FUT.3SG.M do NEGB / since use COP1.NFOC

wandà mukè: *dà* *fi:* //

which 1PL.CONT.FOC with 3SG.M //

The old kind [i.e., manure] won't do since there's no use we have for it.
(HAU BC CONV 02 SP2 103-5)

21.5 NEG5. Subjunctive

The prohibitive marker **kadà** (=kâr, **kar**) serves to negate sentences with a Subjunctive TAM. The meaning will vary beyond that of a prohibitive proper, according to the numerous contexts in which the positive counterpart of the Subjunctive occurs.

Ex 98. **tundà wuɾi** **kar** **tà** **fa:ɾà** **tà** **tabà**
 since at_place NEG5 3SG.F.SBJV begin 3SG.F.SBJV touch
wânnan ramà: tà **ɸi** **fi** //
 ANAPH hemp 3SG.F.SBJV eat 3SG.M //
she should not even begin to touch that hemp and eat it. (HAU BC NARR 02 SP1 110)

22 Question

22.1 Wh-Questions

Apart from echo-questions where the question-word can remain *in situ* with TAM unchanged, Wh-Questions are a typical case of syntactic focus with the questioned constituent replaced by a pro-question word and moved to the front of sentence. The TAM of the sentence is replaced with a [+FOC] TAM. Hausa question words are:

- ‘who?’ **wà:** (=wà:ne: nè:) m., **wà:ɸe: ɸè:** f., **su wà:** (=su wà:ne: nè:) pl.; **wà:jè:** m., **su wà:jè:** pl.
- ‘what?’ **mè:** (=mè:ne: nè:) m., **mè:ɸe: ɸè:** f. (rare), **su mè:ne: nè:** pl.; **mè:jè:** m.
- ‘which?’ (adj) **wànnè** m., **wàɸè** f., **wàɗànnè** pl.
- ‘which one(s) (pro) **wànnè:** m., **wàɸɸe:** f., **wàɗànnè:** pl.
- ‘where?’ **ina:**
- ‘when?’ **jàufè / jàufe:**
- ‘how?’ (ta) **jà:jà:**
- ‘how many/much?’ **nawà**
- ‘why?’ **don mè:, sabò: dà me:**

Ex 99. **an** **ka:mà: wà: ne:** //
 4.PFV.NFOC catch who COP1.NFOC //
 They caught who? (HAU BC CONV 03 SP1 116)⁵⁶

Ex 100. **an** **ɸimà: ina: zâ: ni** //
 4.PFV.NFOC spend_time where DIR 1SG //
 Later on, where will I go? (HAU BC CONV 03 SP1 043)

The intonation pattern is that of declarative sentences.

22.2 Yes/No questions

Yes/No questions preserve the word order of the declarative sentence but are marked in one or more of the following four ways: (1) by addition of the q-morpheme; (2) by question intonation; (3) by a sentence-final interrogative tag; and (4) by a sentence-initial interrogative word (Newman 2000:497ff.).

⁵⁶ This is an example of WH-Question with *in situ* focus, appearing in cases of echo-questions.

The Q-morpheme

P. Newman (2000:493) describes a tonemic morpheme added to the end of sentences containing a question-word. He insists that this is not an intonational phenomenon, since no specific intonation pattern is associated with Wh-Questions, which share a single pattern with declarative sentences.

The morpheme, which consists of length and L tone, attaches itself to the immediately preceding syllable. The morpheme serves (a) to lengthen short final vowels, and (b) to add a low tone to words ending in a high tone (thereby producing a fall). If the last word in the sentence is consonant-final or if it ends in a vowel that is already long, then adding the length component has no surface consequences. Similarly, if the preceding syllable already ends in an L tone or in a fall (= HL on a single syllable), then the L-tone component of the morpheme attaches vacuously and has no effect on the surface tone. (op.cit.)

In SH, the Q-morpheme does not consistently add L tone to Yes-No questions, only length, resulting in a contrast between **zâi fita** ‘He will go out’ vs. **zâi fita: ?** ‘Will he go out?’ (PN:497).

Ex 101. **wà: zâi fita + : ? > wà: zâi fitâ: ?**

Who will come? (tone and length added)

jàufè ta haihù + : ? > jàufè ta haihù: ?

When did she give birth ? (length added)

mè: sukà sajar + : ? > mè: sukà sajàr?

What did they sell? (tone added)

ina: ka ga ja: ròn?

Where did you see the boy? (vacuous addition) (PN:497).

Question intonation

Despite dialectal as well as individual variation, one can characterize the intonation of Yes/No questions in Hausa as follows:

The main feature of the “classic” pattern (described in standard grammars) is key raising (=register shift) before the last H tone of the sentence. The key raising raises the pitch of the H tone and also of succeeding L tones. (A final H-L sequence, for example, surfaces as something that sounds like an extra-high pitch followed by a high or mid.) (PN: 497)

Sentence-final question tags

The particles **ko:**, **ba**, **ne:**, **kùwa**, **fà:** function as sentence-final question tags. When key raising applies, they will surface with a long vowel and a falling tone, e.g. **ka: ɗɗi bá: ?** (< **ba+ :**) ‘Did you hear?’; **ja: àurɪ Aifà nê: ?** (< **ne: + l:**) ‘Did he marry Aisha?’

Sentence-initial interrogative words

The three interrogative words found at the start of Yes/No questions are: **ko:** (cf. the disjunctive **ko: ... ko: ...** ‘either ... or’), **anjâ:** (for questions introducing a serious doubt) and **fin** (for questions seeking confirmation).

Ex 102. **ko: bà: hakà ba //**

whether NEG4A like_this NEGB //

Isn't it true? (lit. or is it not so?) ([HAU_BC_CONV_02_SP1_031](#))

22.3 Indirect questions

Indirect WH-questions are introduced by the complementizer **ko**: ‘whether’, followed by a Wh-question word, e.g.

Ex 103. **bàn san ko: wà: ja ji hakà ba**
NEG1A.1S.PFV know whether who 3SG.PFV.FOC do like_this NEGB
I don’t know who acted this way. (BC)

Embedded Y/N-questions are introduced by the complementizers **ko**: or **in** with the usual change in pronouns but without the addition of any other word:

Ex 104. **sai saḳi: ya tàmbàj-e: ji**
then king 3SG.PVF.FOC ask-ACC2 3SG
in janà: sòn jà zaunà: waɗgensà
if 3SG.CONT.NFOC wanting.POSL 3SG.SBJV sit near.POSL.3SG
Then the king asked him if he wanted to sit next to him. (BC)

The intonation pattern is that of declarative sentences.

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